Meteoric Image

Winnipeg's Red Scare

A Tale of Tatamagouche

The Beaver

CANADA'S HISTORY MAGAZINE

August | September 2007

THE WORST CANADIAN?

Controversial. Contentious.
But the most contemptible?
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12-page feature.

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The Beaver
CANADA'S HISTORY MAGAZINE

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Canada

Shades of grey

I was young in 1980 when Terry Fox began his Marathon of Hope. When he died, it was the first time I had even heard the word *cancer*. In later years, I found myself driving across Canada, leaving New Brunswick to start a new job in Calgary. I pulled over near Thunder Bay, Ontario, and will never forget the mixture of pride, and sadness I felt in seeing Fox's monument on that rise overlooking Lake Superior.

How many of us, I wonder – if given the same diagnosis – would have had the courage to dip our foot in the waters off Newfoundland and try to run across the second-largest country in the world?

Fox's selfless act has helped raise millions for cancer research and inspired generations to do their part to find a cure. To me, Terry Fox is our greatest Canadian.

THOMAS FRICKE

Ask me to name the worst Canadian, however, and it's another story. Perhaps it's the ambiguity of the question itself that's the challenge. I think we can generally agree on the universal qualities shared by the greatest Canadians: selflessness; compassion; vision; courage. But what makes someone the worst Canadian?

Last spring, we challenged the public, as well as a panel of history experts, to choose the most contemptible Canuck. You'll find their answers – and the arguments supporting their picks – in this issue. Certainly, some cases seem black and white. For instance, during our Worst Canadians survey, plenty of people voted for Paul Bernardo, and rightly so – he's one of Canada's most sadistic and vile killers.

Yet most of Canada's history isn't black and white, but has been played out in shades of grey. As times change, so too does our collective moral compass. Actions considered reprehensible today might have once been widely accepted by past generations.

Take, for instance, Michael Gliserman's "A Tale of Tatamagouche", which, in this issue, takes us back to the beginnings of the expulsion of the Acadians. As someone of Acadian heritage, I have my own thoughts about the events of 1755. However, to British officials at the time, the expulsion was justified as a matter of security – a grey decision that's easy to condemn in hindsight.

Some wonder if it's even possible to pick the worst Canadian. Duke University historian John Herd Thompson, for instance, argues that the worst events in Canada's history bear collective responsibility.

"I might pick the residential schools as the worst things Canadians ever did," Thompson said in a recent interview with *The Beaver*. "Canadians supported that policy."

So who is the worst Canadian? I don't pretend to know the answer – but I love a good argument. It's been said that we learn from our mistakes. If that's true, then we owe it to past generations to learn from their failures. I hope, with the Worst Canadians survey, we've given you plenty of fodder for debate, and sparked a greater conversation about Canada's history – one that celebrates our achievements, but also owns up to the not-so-glorious moments in our past.

Speaking of celebrating achievements, I must tip my cap to outgoing editor Doug Whiteway, along with the other men and women who have helmed *The Beaver* throughout the years. As the new Editor, I inherit a magazine with a long, proud history of telling Canada's stories. It's a tradition I intend to continue.

Mark Reid
Editor
editors@historysociety.ca

COVER: CP PHOTOS

Let us be French, let us be English, but most
let us be Canadian! – Sir John A.
3971
A View of the Taking of QUEBEC September 13th 1759
Shewing the manner of debarking the English Forces, & of the resolute scrambling of the light Infantry,
up a Woody Precipice to dislodge the Captains post, which defended a small entrenched path, through
which the Troops were to pass. Also a view of the signal Victory obtained over the French regulars,
Canadians and Indians, which produced the surrender of Quebec.
Published 1st November 1797, by LAURIE & WHITTLE, 53 Fleet Street, London.
Vüe de la Prise de QUE
Qui Represente le débarquement des Fro
Legere en Escaladant un Précipice Boiseu
un Sentier retranché par où les Troupes devo
Remporté Sur les Francois, Canadiens & Indie

A view of the taking of Quebec, September 13th 1759
Anonymous 1797

The Beaver

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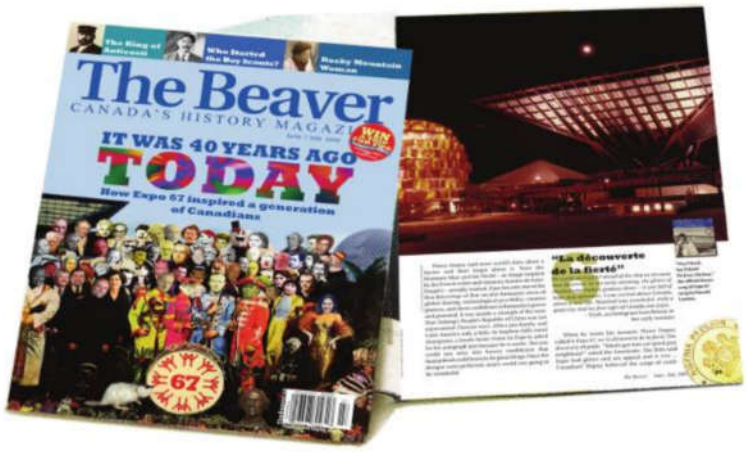
The Beaver
CANADA'S HISTORY MAGAZINE
IT WAS 40 YEARS AGO
TODAY
How Expo 67 inspired a generation of Canadians
"La découverte de la fierté"

Cover mea culpa

I love, love, love the Sgt. Pepper-like cover! Very clever. Not a big deal, but the photo you refer to as Jacques Plante is actually Clint Benedict. Both were pioneers of the hockey goalie mask, although almost thirty years apart.

A long-time fan who dreams of one day being published in *The Beaver*.

KEVIN SHEA
TORONTO, ONTARIO

[*Ed: Kevin Shea is the editor of publications and online features with the Hockey Hall of Fame*]

I usually read my wife's copy of *The Beaver*, and this issue was no exception. When I picked it up and saw all the faces on the cover, I thought I'd ... see how many of them I could name. I guess I'm not going to give up my day job, because according to the index on page three, I only correctly identified twenty-eight.

Hold on though, I demand a recount! I'm sure I correctly identified number five! As any red-blooded Canadian hockey fan should note, that isn't Jacques Plante! Number five is none other than Clint Benedict, the first goalie to ever wear a face mask in a hockey game! A full 30 years before Plante ever did! Mr. Benedict was apparently a very good goalie who played for both the Ottawa Senators and the Montreal Maroons, but never achieved the stature of Plante, whom many erroneously credit with being the inventor of the goalie mask.

By the way, of whom is the bust to the right of Bucky the beaver? Keep up the great magazine!

ROB MACDONALD,
NEWTONVILLE, ONTARIO

[*Ed: The letter writers are right – the image on the cover is indeed Benedict, who enjoyed a thirteen-year NHL career in Ottawa and Montreal. In the lingo of sports, we'll try from here on to give 110 percent effort in terms of accuracy. As for the bust, as many of you guessed, it's Sir John A. Macdonald, our first prime minister.*]

Singing praise

I'm fixing a hole, just a little hole, in *The Beaver*'s marketing plan. I am suggesting – with a little help from my friends – that you produce a poster of Sgt. Pearson's Lonely Canucks Club Band, for the benefit of Mr./Ms. CITE (Constitutionally In Turmoil Eternally) and the lovely *readas*. What could be better to promote *The Beaver* than to have a "compilation of Canadians" to admire so? After all, I want *The Beaver* around till I'm at least sixty-four.

MARILYN JOB
SUBSCRIBER

What a wonderful flood of memories came back as I read that great article and looked at the pictures "An Expo 67 Kaleidescope" [June-July 2007]. I had gone down to the States in the 1950s to attend university, married a classmate and got a job teaching school on Long Island, New York. During the summers of 1964 and 1965, I served as a guide at the New York World's Fair. By 1967 my four children were old enough to learn something about the land of their father.

The two weeks we spent at Expo 67 was the best introduction possible. And as young as they were then (eight, seven, five and four years old) all have memories of that visit. When each left home I gave them their "passports" with all the pavilion stamps embossed inside.

For me, the musical themes of both the Canadian [*Can-a-da*] and the Ontario [*A Place to Stand, A Place to Grow (Ontari-ari-ari-o!*] pavilions still play in my mind. I think I will use your "et cetera" site to see if I can obtain recordings of them.

PATRICK J. CURRAN
LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO

All in the family

My parents often share their copies of *The Beaver* with me, and I was eager to read "An Expo 67 Kaleidoscope" [June-July 2007] because, as a 13-year-old Montrealer, I thought of Expo 67 as my World's Fair, and saw every pavilion that could stamp my Expo visa. However, I hadn't expected to see my cousin Gail Victor in the photograph accompanying *The Girls of Expo* on page 25. My cousin is the Expo hostess seen perched on a pavilion wall; she was 19 and a guide at the Labyrinth during the summer of 1967. Thank you for this Expo souvenir.

SHERYL HALPERN
MONTREAL, QUEBEC

Proud of multicultural Canada

After reading the article ["Christopher Moore: The Other Quiet Revolution"] in the June-July 2007 issue of your generally excellent magazine, I found myself getting increasingly irritated with the way the author totally ignored the many other ethnic backgrounds that have shaped this wonderful country called Canada.

To read Mr. Moore's article it would appear that Canada exists solely as a result of colonization by England and France. While it may be true that in the nineteenth century the principal migration to our country was from Great Britain and France, directly and indirectly, it is also true that most of that movement was to Eastern Canada, more specifically Ontario and Quebec. Since the early 1900s much of the migration to Canada as a whole came from other areas.

It is a fact that the majority of our country (at least geographically) was colonized by people from other parts of the world, specifically Central and Eastern Europe, as well as from Asia. The opening up of Western Canada came as a direct result of the land grants that were given to Eastern European farmers. These people had a profound influence on our country and in fact there never was a "Britishness" to life on the prairies.

Rather there was, and is, a great pride in being Canadian, regardless of one's country of origin.

The introduction of formal Canadian citizenship and a truly Canadian Flag in the mid-twentieth century were … a formal recognition of something we had known all along – our country is ours, and not an extension of anything else.

I find it a bit offensive that the article presents the English Ontario view of life as if it represented the rest of Canada. I would urge José Igartua to look a bit beyond Montreal and Toronto when he is examining our country and its roots.

DAVID L. STAUFT, P.ENG, P.GEOL
CALGARY, ALBERTA

Scout's honour

I read with some surprise Matthew Laird's article, ["Scout's Honour: Did Robert Baden-Powell June-July 2007] really mastermind the Boy Scout Movement? Or was it a Canadian?"]. The surprise did not arise from the fact that he had anything new to say; just that the same tired old clichés should be trotted out in such close proximity to the 100th anniversary of Scouting, detracting from the founder's (Baden-Powell's) pivotal role at this time of celebration.

"Setonites" have long and rightly held that their hero was the first in the field as far as youth organizations based on woodcraft are concerned. Many of the games played on Brownsea and extolled in *Scouting for Boys* come from Ernest Thompson Seton but there are ten acknowledgments to him in the first editions of the book – a fact Seton totally denied in his later tirades. Seton met with B-P in London and they agreed to work together.

Seton created his "tribes" of [Woodcraft] Indians. He did not create Boy Scouts. What defines a Scout? Should I need to ask? A young person who has taken the "law and promise" – a series of statements that incorporate a religious ideal, service to one's country and to one's community. Where were these principals to be found in Seton's [Woodcraft] Indians?

On August 1, 1907, Baden-Powell blew his Kudu horn across Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour, Dorset, England. It was he that stood before the campfire surrounded by the young people he brought to camp together from a variety of social backgrounds – in itself a feat never accomplished in Edwardian Britain – and he that told them stories that to a man they never forgot. Twenty-one boys on Brownsea became the hundreds millions of Scouts world wide … most of whom will have never heard of Ernest Thompson Seton – except as footnote in their founder's handbook, as the person who provided games that are no longer played.

COLIN WALKER
FERNDELL, VALLEY ROAD,
DARRINGTON,
PONTEFRACT, ENGLAND

[*Ed: Colin Walker is the editor and major contributor to the Scout History website Scouting.Milestones.btinternet. co.uk*]

***The Beaver* welcomes readers' comments.** E-mail us at editors@historysociety.ca or write to *The Beaver*, 478–167 Lombard Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3B 0T6 Canada. Please include your address and daytime phone number. Letters may be edited for clarity or length.

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Canada

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QUÉBEC 1608 - 2008

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QUÉBEC 2008

Fairmont
LE CHÂTEAU FRONTENAC
QUÉBEC

The Beaver
CANADA'S HISTORY MAGAZINE

Calendar

Three Villages painted robe showing a calumets ritual and battle scene, circa 1740, Arkansas, Quapaw.

Quebec

First Nations, French Royal Collections—A mutual exchange of influences

As part of the festivities marking its 15th anniversary, Montreal's museum of archaeology and history presents one of the world's finest collections of aboriginal ornaments, garments, weapons and tools from a wide and diverse variety of native groups.

June 5 to October 14, 2007
Pointe-à-Callière, Montreal
Pacmuseum.qc.ca
514-872-9150

Nova Scotia

Pirates: Myth and Reality

Swashbuckling buccaneers and adventure on the high seas. The Maritime Museum of the Atlantic tells the story of these treacherous and often-romanticised characters outside the silver screen. The interactive exhibit captures the perilous reality of pirate life in the North Atlantic and Caribbean.

June 1 to October 31, 2007
Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, Halifax
Museum.gov.ns.ca/mma/
902-424-7490

Alberta

Quilt of Belonging: Celebrating Canada's multiculturalism and diversity

Celebrate Canada's rich and diverse history of immigration and multiculturalism at the Glenbow Museum through the visually stunning work of artist Esther Bryan.

June 30 to September 30, 2007
Glenbow Museum, Calgary
Glenbow.org
403-268-4100

MUSÉE DU QUAI BRANLY – 71-1934-33.7

Farming for oil

During World War II, Phyllis Turner – mother of former prime minister John Turner – acted as commissioner of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board. It was a period of concern about costs and availability of necessities – a subject Turner, a former PhD student at the London School of Economics and civil servant with the Tariff Board in Ottawa, was well suited to addressing.

Turner saw that most vegetable oils came into Canada from warmer climates and that the country would benefit from a domestic oilseed crop. She urged the Department of Agriculture and the National Research Council of Canada to find suitable seed material.

Sunflower seed oil passed the gastronomic standard, but not the Canadian agricultural criteria for large-scale production. Similar limitations arose over edible oil from cherry stones, peach and apricot kernels. Linseed interested many researchers, but in 1942 W. H. Cook of the National Research Council wrote that improved processing of linseed oil had not reached the stage where it would be acceptable if other vegetable oils were available.

Canola is now widely used as a vegetable oil.

ISTOCKPHOTO

Rapeseed was mentioned in a document signed by Phyllis Turner sixty-five years ago. Rapeseed was being grown in the United States for wartime use in the manufacture of marine engine oils. Turner realized that it was unlikely the Americans would sell rapeseed for human consumption while there was an urgent need for marine lubricants. But there was another source: South America.

In May 1942, the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa purchased fifty pounds of Argentine rapeseed with the intention of expanding its production. C.Y. Hopkins, a chemist at the National Research Council, expressed doubts about the project due to the high levels of erucic acid in rapeseed and its accompanying poor nutritional qualities. But the new rapeseed was an agronomical success.

By 1948, more than thirty-two thousand hectares were yellow with the plant's flower. The Department of Agriculture had a winner, but the Department of National Health and Welfare was nervous about increased consumption of erucic acid and other long-chain fatty acids. Plant breeders saved the day by eliminating the bitter-tasting erucic acid from the oil. This newly improved rapeseed became known as canbra (*Canadian Brassica*) and later as canola – Canada's Cinderella crop.

– **Joyce Beare-Rogers**

Currents

Our home & native ...

Newsprint

MORE POET THAN INVENTOR, Nova Scotian Charles Fenerty combined his love of nature and his family ties to the paper industry, added a dash of creativity, and came up with newsprint – a relatively inexpensive paper that forever altered the spread of the printed word.

Around 1838, Fenerty heard mill operators grumbling over the scarcity of rags, the fibres of which were used to make paper. Europe went as far as to cut off the supply of cotton to North America when the demand became too high.

Fenerty experimented with the fibres found in his beloved trees, of which he often wrote. By 1844, he publicized his success in creating paper from spruce wood pulp. As is often the case, he failed to patent his invention and saw little personal gain.

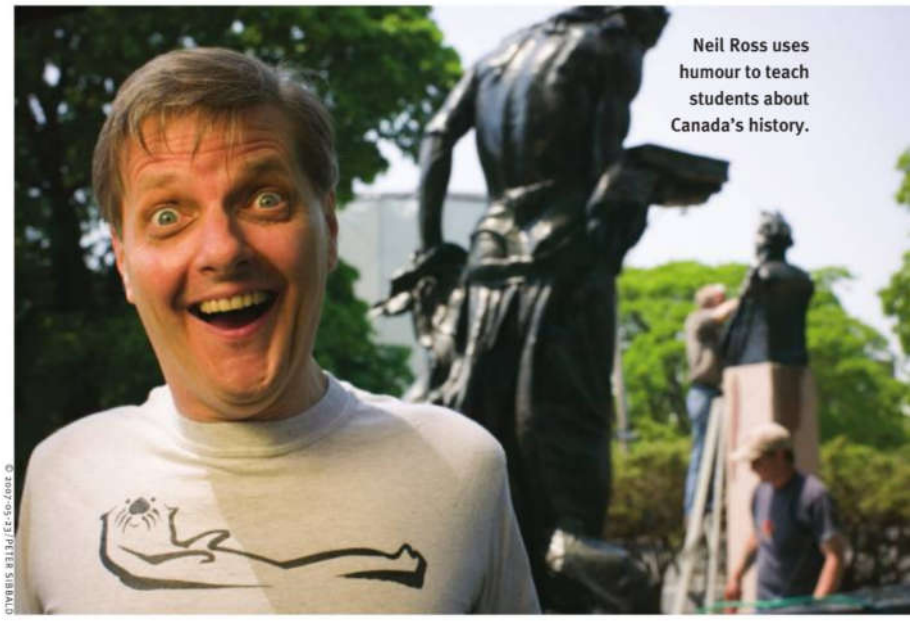
But Fenerty's achievements were remembered by his community. In a session of Parliament in April 1996, Sackville-Beaverbank Member of Parliament William MacDonald commented: "All the print media people who cover this House should take note, for were it not for Charles Fenerty, the newspaper or magazine you work for would probably not exist today."

Living History

Laugh and learn

CANADIAN HISTORY TEACHERS TAKE NOTE: THERE'S SOMEBODY out there who will make your job a lot easier. His name is Neil Ross – comic, performer, Canadian pop-culture expert, historian of the Canadian joke, and public history visionary. Give this man a stage, or even an alcove, and your students will learn like they've never learned before.

Since 2003, Ross has been performing a stage play entitled *Peace, Rights and Freedoms: A Live History of Canadian Democracy*. With collaborator Zan Coy, Ross has taken the almost impenetrably stuffy, arcane, and legalistic minutiae of Canada's constitutional past and transformed it into a neo-Vaudevillian sketch comedy *tour de force* for kids.

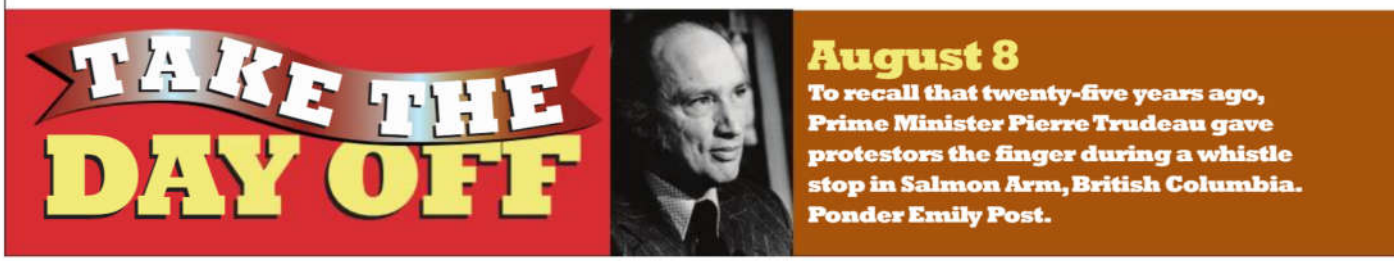


Neil Ross uses humour to teach students about Canada's history.

© 2007-05-23/PETER SIBBALD

Armed with kazoos, hockey sticks, and one-liners, Ross's show introduces young minds to the birth of Responsible Government, the evolution of medicare, the Baldwin-Lafontaine handshake, and the War of 1812 restaged as a Stanley Cup playoff. Not only that, but in an age where "value outcomes" play such an important role in history curricula, *Peace, Rights and Democracy* is also a surprisingly perfect fit. The show builds steadily towards a passionate message of historical advocacy for non-violence, cultural diversity, democratic citizenship, and all those nice things.

Ross's work also forces us to tackle the question: "Is the past funny? Can history have jokes?" To purists, historical facts are neither funny nor tragic nor dramatic –



August 8

To recall that twenty-five years ago, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau gave protestors the finger during a whistle stop in Salmon Arm, British Columbia. Ponder Emily Post.

they just are. However, one only has to look at the savage irony in the writing of Queen's University historian Ian McKay, or the unbridled silliness of Stephen Penfold, the University of Toronto's historian of the doughnut, to see that jokes are enjoying something of a renaissance in the Canadian historical establishment.

Few people would be more qualified to successfully merge humour and history than Neil Ross. A comic by profession, Ross has a sharply honed talent for unearthing the jokes that lie hidden within the mists of time. In *Peace, Rights and Democracy*, for example, consider his observation about the *coureurs des bois* travelling deeper into the North for thicker and thicker beaver pelts: "The whole northern expansion of the continent can be said to be a search for warmer hats."

Ross knows Canadian humour. He's made the Canadian sense of comic irony the object of an historical investigation: He teaches a course on the cultural evolution of Canadian humour at Humber College, tracing the Canadian idea of what's funny from Stephen Leacock to *Kids in the Hall*. As a public historian, Ross thinks of humour as a communicative tool that can help bring order to the past.

Ross, who studied history at the University of British Columbia as an undergraduate, recalls: "The funniest of my profs at UBC was Professor Upton in his Canadian history lectures. And man, we learned!"

To Ross, humour makes history come alive in our minds. He claims, for example, that the iconic cartoons of J.W. Bengough have inextricably informed our popular understanding of Sir John A. Macdonald.

Peace, Rights and Democracy has been playing in multiple venues to young people of all ages throughout Ontario. Ross is busy working on new versions of the show, tailoring it for each distinct historical region of the country, with nascent plans for a national tour by train.

– Matthew Rankin

Beaver Bites

Beaver Brand Butter Box

Mmm … there's nothing quite like fifty-six pounds of smooth, creamy beaver to spread on your morning toast. The Beaver Brand behind this box of butter, dating back to the early twentieth century, was trademarked to Canada Packers Inc. The company formed in Toronto in 1927 after a series of mergers between various meat packers that had been in business since 1860. It went on, through another merger in 1990, to form the largest food-producing and packing business in the country. Canada Packers dropped its name in favour of its new partner, one we know well: Maple Leaf Foods.

PHOTO BY MATTHEW BEVERLY FROM *THE MAPLE LEAF FOREVER: A CELEBRATION OF CANADIAN SYMBOLS*. DONNA AND NIGEL HUTCHINS. BOSTON MILLS PRESS. DISTRIBUTED BY FIREFLY BOOKS. REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION.

THE WEB

umanitoba.ca/libraries/archives/prairie_immigration

Learn about the immigration experience in Western Canada by browsing through 15,000 digitized archival items, including texts, photos, videos, and audio recordings at this project of the University of Manitoba Archives and Special Collections. Learn the hardships settlers overcame as they moved westward into a new country.

dcd.ca

Dance Collection Danse highlights Canada's achievements in dance. View a catalogue of their archives or explore *Encore! Encore!*, which features in-depth virtual exhibits on dancers such as Nancy Lima Dent, Judy Jarvis, and Françoise Sullivan.

digital.library.mcgill.ca/nwc

At *In Pursuit of Adventure: The Fur Trade in Canada and the North West Company*, delve into the Rare Books and Special Collections Division of the McGill University Libraries to read about the Canadian fur trade in the eighteenth and nineteenth century. Research tools include timelines, annotated maps, and a database of manuscripts.

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Pour Chelins

August 10

To commemorate the release of the first bank note in Canada in 1792. Go on a spending spree.

August 24

To note that in 1870, Louis Riel and companions fled to the United States as troops overtook the Red River settlement. Renew your passport.

Currents

Moment

August 16, 1947, 10:00 a.m. First flight of the DHC-2 Beaver, the world's greatest bush plane

WING COMMANDER RUSS BANNOCK – CANADA'S second-highest scoring ace of World War II – walked down the runway at Downsview, Ontario, the late summer sun glinting off his signature Royal Canadian Air Force sunglasses.

The 1000th DHC-2 Beaver produced takes flight in 1956. It is still in use today.

DE HAVILLAND CANADA

Waiting before him on the tarmac sat a snub-nosed feat of untested Canadian aviation engineering – the prototype DHC-2 Beaver bush plane.

Climbing into the cockpit, his blue-grey flight suit ironed and pressed for the occasion, Bannock checked for the final go-ahead from his anxious, six-man engineering team.

Soon, he was roaring down the runway. Goosing the throttle, Bannock, along with 1,292 kilograms of wings and fuselage, soared skyward.

In Sean Rossiter's book, *The Immortal Beaver*, Bannock gives the details of the Beaver's first take off: "… I opened up the engine to take-off power and was surprised how quickly the aircraft became airborne. After doing some gentle turns, climbs and descents, my first reaction was how pleasant the Beaver was to fly."

During pre-launch testing, the little plane had performed marvellously. But shortly into the flight, things quickly became complicated. Looking down, Bannock noticed a problem with the oil gauge.

Slowly, the pressure slipped from the ideal figure of 60 psi, and began dropping – from 50 psi, to 40, to 30 – eventually bottoming out at a disturbing 10 psi.

This was no time for indecision. Gliding high over farmland between North York and Richmond Hill, Bannock pulled the throttle lever back to the bottom of its slot and let the loud 450 hp Wasp Jr. engine idle.

To survive its maiden flight, this war ace would have to guide the Beaver back home with a dead-stick, or power-off landing.

Even before the Second World War, de Havilland Canada planned to build a robust bush aircraft that could withstand Canada's extremes of climate and terrain. With the help of the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests, the specifications for the final Beaver design evolved.

The project revved into motion in the spring of 1946, when R. D. Hiscocks revived it while working closely with the Ontario Provincial Air Service. He changed the wing from the RAF aerofoil to one of his own design, and created an effective flap system to achieve the required take-off performance. Indeed, Hiscocks called the Beaver "the first serious short take-off and landing aeroplane."

Hiscocks' team – managing director, Philip Garratt; engineering director, Doug Hunter; chief designer, Jaki Jakimiuk; chief design engineer, Fred Buller; and power plant engineer, Jim Houston – designed a plane which would succeed spectacularly in dangerous terrain and capricious weather.

But back in 1947, the Beaver's future was unclear. As for Bannock, he knew only one thing for certain – he had to get his Beaver back on the ground in one piece.

With a skilful hand, Bannock urged the plane toward the runway. As the wheels hit the tarmac that summer day, Canadian aviation history was made.

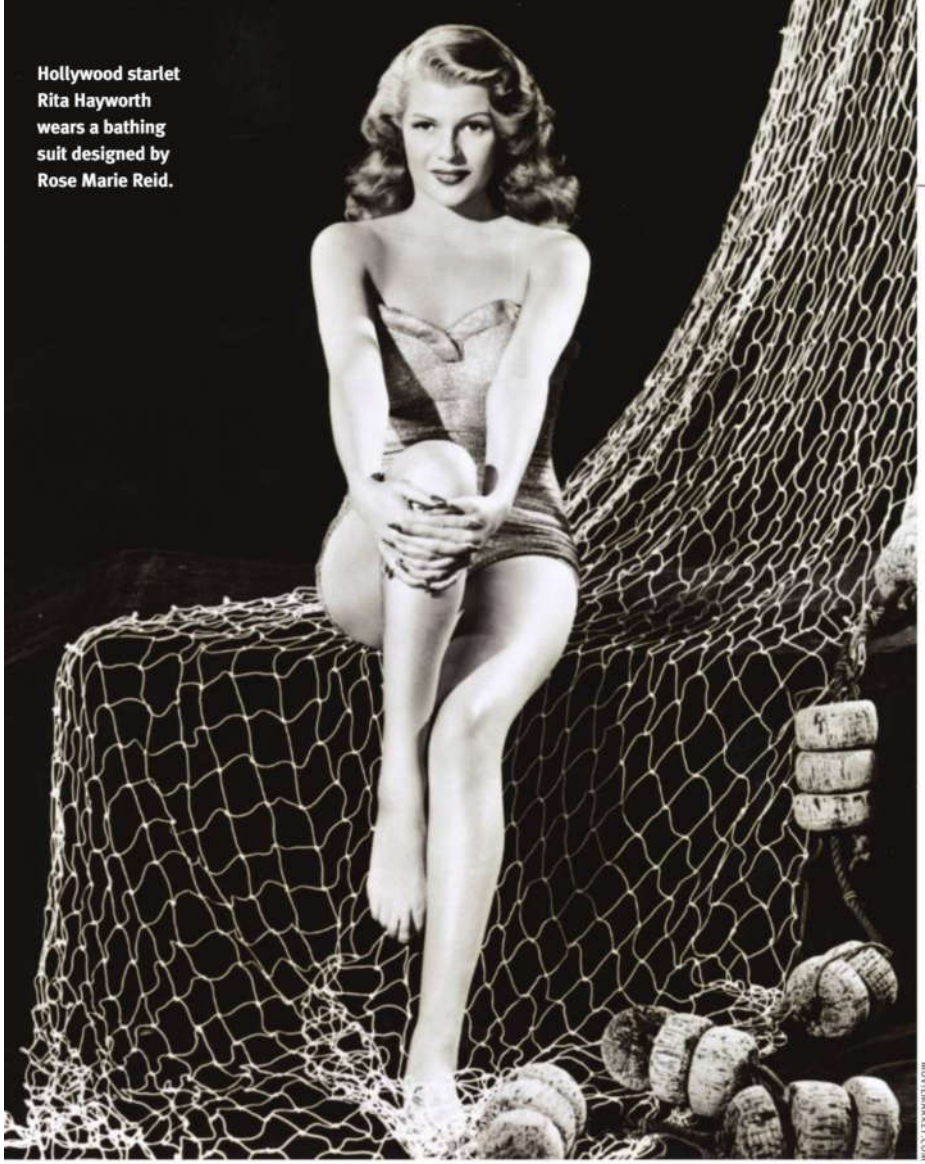
It wasn't pretty – streaks of dirty black oil stained the plane's fuselage and dripped onto the runway. Yet Bannock climbed out of the Beaver smiling, declaring the plane a delight to fly.

Today, the Beaver is world-renowned for its durability and reliability. It saw service in the Korean and Vietnam wars, dropped supplies for the British Army in the searing heat of equatorial Africa and has gone on to become Canada's most successful aircraft design.

– Christopher Webb

September 3

To mark the day in 1893 on which Parliament made Labour Day an official holiday in Canada. Take another day off.



Hollywood starlet Rita Hayworth wears a bathing suit designed by Rose Marie Reid.

MOVIEMARKET.COM

Succeeding in swimwear

LIFE AT THE BEACH GOT A LOT MORE COMFY after Rose Marie Reid fashioned new trunks for her swimming-instructor husband in Cardston, Alberta, eighty years ago.

Swimwear in the 1930s consisted only of woollen men's trunks and women's tank suits that instantly sopped up water and sagged. Reid cut new trunks from a water-resistant coat and laced up the sides for a snug fit. When people at the community pool asked Jack Reid where to buy them, he pressured his wife into business. "My mother just wanted to stay home and raise a large family," says her daughter, Carole Reid-Burr, who co-authored her mother's biography, *Rose Marie Reid: An Extraordinary Life Story*, published in 1995.

A devout Mormon, Reid prayed to God for guidance. When buyers immediately placed dozens of orders, she accepted swimwear designing as God's will.

Reid sought out and developed water-resistant fabrics. She designed on models so that she could hear and see what actually felt and looked best. Her bathing suits for women became the first to have internal support features. She also designed mother-and-daughter outfits and used real people – including her own daughters – as models in store-display windows. By 1947, half of all swimsuits sold in Canada were from her line.

The breakup of her marriage in 1946 had prompted her to launch Rose Marie Reid, Inc., of California as part of a U.S. expansion. She wanted to ensure that her two young daughters and son did not go without anything because she had become a single mother. Her new line included a gold metallic swimsuit; when Rita Hayworth's studio bought one for her, Reid became famous.

Reid strived to create swimwear and accessories that women would consider as elegant as evening apparel. Joan Crawford and Jane Russell dressed in Reid's swimsuits for their films. Marilyn Monroe gave Reid almost as much credit as Mother Nature for her pinup success.

In 1951, *Life* praised Reid's new hourglass design as the year's most revolutionary suit. Virtually every news and fashion magazine flattered her work throughout the fifties. She headed the world's largest manufacturer of ladies' swimwear from 1954 to 1959, with her suits eventually selling in forty-nine countries.

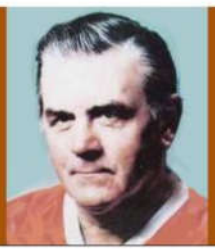
Unfortunately, Reid preferred to let others handle financial matters, which led to her losing her life savings. "She trusted people too much," Burr says, "but that was her nature."

Then along came the bikini. By the early 1960s, it spelled Reid's fashion demise, though the line continues to sell among modest bathers.

– Julie Gedeon

September 4

To celebrate the opening of the first Sunday school in Canada in 1793 in Quebec City. Say a little prayer.



September 15

To honour the day in 1960 when hockey player Maurice "Rocket" Richard announced he was retiring. Hang up your skates.

Explorations

Michael Barnholden on

The lessons of the Anti-Asiatic Riot

In 1907, an anti-immigration rally explodes into violence and vandalism in Vancouver's Chinatown and Japantown.

When Vancouver's Asiatic Exclusion League (AEL) decided to put on its inaugural event to protest against continued immigration from China, Japan, and Korea, excitement ran high. The AEL, backed mainly by the Knights of Labour (a non-union conservative labour organization), had been founded on August 12, 1907. Wanting to make their first event memorable, and thinking that everybody loves a parade, league members decided to put one on, followed by a mass meeting. The event would be held on the first Saturday in September, the weekend after Labour Day.

Mayor Alexander Bethune and several city councillors, all founding members of the AEL, volunteered the use of the city hall, located halfway between Chinatown and Japantown. Religious leaders offered to speak, businesses contributed signs reading "For a White Canada," and a Major E. Browne stepped forward to lead the parade from the Cambie Street Grounds, north to Hastings Street, and then east to Westminster (now Main Street), after which speeches were to be delivered on the main floor of city hall.

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British Columbia is criticized for giving white immigrants priority over newcomers from Asia in this illustration by N.H. Hawkins, Saturday Sunset, 1907.

The event was advertised in news reports, and by the time the parade arrived at city hall, a huge crowd had gathered. Crowd estimates vary between four thousand and eight thousand people. The hall held a maximum of two thousand, so thousands milled about on the street in front of the hall. After the main speeches inside – at least four delivered by local religious leaders – A.E. Fowler of Seattle's Japanese and Corean [sic] Exclusion League delivered a rousing speech on the steps of city hall, calling not only for a stop to immigration from Asian countries, but also the expulsion of all people of Asian origin from North America. The mob burned Lieutenant Governor Robert Dunsmuir in effigy for his refusal to give royal assent to British Columbia's 1907 Immigration Act, which was designed to exclude all oriental immigrants from British Columbia in violation of international treaties.

Reports say that after the speeches, a young boy threw a rock through the window of a Chinese merchant's store – and then all hell broke loose. The surprised Chinese could only lock their doors and set up barricades to protect themselves. Soon every window in Chinatown was broken, and the crowd turned toward "Little Yokohama," or Nihon Bachi, the few blocks around the Powell Street grounds (now Oppenheimer Park) where Vancouver's Japanese population lived.

The Japanese were prepared: They had held their own march and organizational meeting the day before, bought weapons, and stocked up on bricks and rocks to defend themselves. Two days of hand-to-hand combat ensued, ending late Monday with the attempted arson of the Japanese Language School on Alexander Street (a newer building now sits on the same site). The Vancouver police department, consisting of two-dozen

officers, was overwhelmed, with the crowd freeing most of the rioters taken into custody. Three people were charged, but only one was convicted of any offence. Newspapers openly mocked the efforts of the court and police. Surprisingly, few injuries were reported.

News of the riot flashed around the world, hitting the front pages in Ottawa, New York, and London. All levels of government in Canada made hasty apologies, particularly to the Japanese government – an Imperial ally of Britain and, by extension, her Dominion of Canada.

Plans were made for a royal commission, with the ultimate aim of making reparations for damages suffered at the hands of the rioters. William Lyon Mackenzie King, then deputy minister of labour, ultimately chaired two royal commissions, one each for Chinese and Japanese claims. While most claims were honoured, the cost of weapons and ammunition were not paid and no claims from damaged opium factories were reimbursed.

The royal commissions, however, did not look at the root causes that led to the rioting. Some people blamed the riot on American AEL visitors. Some blamed it on the peak in Asian immigration in 1907 caused by many Chinese and Japanese coming from Hawaii to escape an outbreak of bubonic plague there. Other possible factors include the unseasonably hot weather at the time, and the shortage of jobs due to a downturn in the Vancouver economy.

Certainly, racism was systemic and pervasive in Vancouver at that time in history, and Asian immigrants often elicited hard feelings from non-Asians for providing low-cost labour to the city's elites.

Lieutenant Governor Dunsmuir, for instance, owned coal mines. He refused royal assent to the Immigration Act not because of the act's inherent racism, but because the act would have violated treaties the federal government had with Asian governments. Meanwhile, Robert Browser, the B.C. attorney general who had drawn up the province's Immigration Act of 1907, was the lawyer for the Nippon Supply Company responsible for writing the contracts to supply Dunsmuir with Asian labour. Bowser profitted from contracting the labour he publicly pledged to exclude from the province.

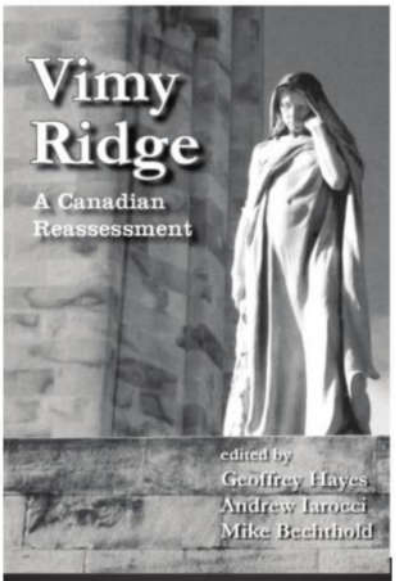
For British Columbia's capitalist class, divide and conquer was the goal. Profit depended on cheap labour. Asian labourers denied all rights and privileges were not only cost-beneficial in themselves, but their acceptance of low wages acted as a restraint on the wages of "citizen" employees. By pitting white labour against Asian labour, the business elite ensured that they were not themselves the targets of agitation. Workers who shared racist sentiments, like those of the Knights of Labour, ultimately worked in the capitalists' favour.

It was not the sentiments that fuelled the 1907 riots that were unacceptable to the elites – it was the outbreak of violence, which was bad for business.

Today, some governments have apologized for racially motivated misdeeds from Canada's past. But immigration continues to be a difficult issue for policy makers. Canada needs immigrants and imports labour to fill jobs. We can hope there will never again be anything like an anti-Asian parade or a white riot, but there are still trends, such as racial profiling and clashes over aboriginal land claims, which are laden with racialized discourse. What if the conditions of our society worsened? What if employers continued to import foreign workers after the economy faltered? Would organized labour join Canadian nationalists to march in the streets? Would they turn against immigrants? Would speeches be made demanding the immediate expulsion of non-landed immigrant labour?

We have two options: to simply live in hope and do nothing; or to learn from the past, take anti-racist action in the present and make a better future for all.

Michael Barnholden is the managing editor of *West Coast Line* and author of *Reading the Riot Act: A Brief History of Riots in Vancouver*. He also works as the Associate Director of Humanities 101 at the University of British Columbia.



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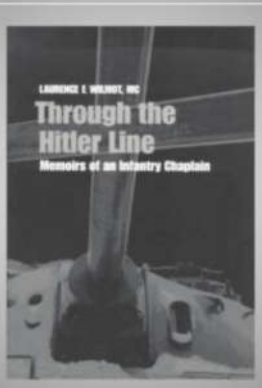

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Art Griffin surveys the night sky above Winona Park, Vancouver. Griffin's passion for astronomy helped him make space history in 1957.

METEORIC IMAGE

Ensconced in a tiny observatory in northern Alberta, Canadian astronomer Art Griffin photographed Sputnik, capturing a defining moment in space history.

by Debbie Marshall

Astronomer Art Griffin stood in the middle of the snow-covered lawn next to the observatory. He peered at the sky through his Buddy Holly glasses, hands on his hips, binoculars dangling from his neck. There was a full moon, and the temperature had dipped below zero degrees Celsius. Usually, he would not have attempted to take a photograph under such conditions, but on this October evening in 1957 he was not going to let a little moonlight get in his way. All around him, cameras with lenses pointing skyward stood mounted on poles of various heights. The observatory roof was open, revealing a large telescopic camera.

Griffin paced between the smaller outdoor cameras, checking and rechecking their angles. Suddenly, a bright light appeared, travelling quickly across the northwest sky. With his heart pounding, Griffin raced inside to radio colleagues at a sister observatory forty-two kilometres away. "The satellite's coming over. It's appearing in the north," he shouted. "I can't come back again, it's moving quickly." Slamming down the handset, Griffin raced back outside.

It was all over in less than a minute. Griffin aimed his camera at a thin orange streak and snapped the shutter, capturing a defining moment in space history.

Art Griffin was born in 1923 in Belleville, a small southern Ontario farming community, the fourth of eight children. He grew up during the Great Depression, but luckily, his father worked for the railway and was able to make enough money to support his family. Griffin was a curious child who liked to make things out of spare parts. On summer days he would go to the overgrown First World War rifle range on the edge of town to set off a cannon made of old pipes, firecrackers, blocks of wood, and steel rivets. In high school, his favourite subjects were physics and mathematics, and he performed well in them. His parents, however, didn't have the means to send him to university. While the nineteen-year-old Griffin was casting about for something to do, his high school principal suggested that he join the army. The Second World War was raging, and the military needed every good man.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION CHRISTIAN FLEURY

Griffin became a wireless operator and eventually found himself in France four days after the Canadian infantry landed in Normandy in 1944. When he reached the beaches, the worst carnage was over. Griffin and his buddies dug a trench that would be their home and office for their first few weeks in France. "Our job was to supply communications for the group that supplied ammunition, food, and clothes to the infantry doing the fighting," recalls Griffin, now retired and living in Vancouver.

Griffin soon discovered he did not enjoy army life. "I had a mind of my own and didn't like orders being laid down. I wanted something more interesting in my life," he said. His passion for science remained, however, and when the war ended, he took the government's offer of free university tuition for former soldiers, with the intention of studying mathematics and physics.

COURTESY OF ART GRIFFIN

Griffin (left) and his assistants unload a box containing Super-Schmidt cameras. The Royal Canadian Air Force flew the cameras from Massachusetts to Edmonton, prompting rumours around town of a secret project.

Griffin began his studies at the University of Toronto at the dawn of the Cold War. The East-West alliance of World War II was over. Western nations, including Canada, Britain, and the United States, feared that the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was planning to expand Communist control over Eastern Europe. Soon the emerging superpowers of the U.S. and Soviet Union were locked in a race to develop and stockpile greater numbers of powerful long-range missiles.

As rocket and missile technologies improved, both nations realized the immense strategic value of exploring and controlling outer space. In the U.S., military officials became preoccupied with the potential hazards posed by meteors on space flight. "The military was thinking of space travel and wanted more information about the upper atmosphere around the Earth – they did not know how many meteors there were at any given time," Griffin explains. "Meteors travel as fast as one hundred kilometres a second – there are particles of material that can cut through metal. The military wanted to know how many and how big they were in the upper atmosphere."

American scientists realized that the most useful meteor observations would come from the far north and far south of the globe, and approached their neighbours to the north for help – setting the stage for Canada's participation in the space race.

In May 1946, Vice Admiral G.F. Hussey, Jr., of the United States Navy asked for Canadian participation in a study of the upper atmosphere through meteor photography. It was agreed that the Dominion Observatory in Ottawa would establish two meteor stations in the North. But where? The government already operated a small magnetic observatory on just over four hectares in the village of Meanook, about ninety-six kilometres north of Edmonton. It was decided that one meteor station would be built there and the other near the town of Newbrook, forty-two kilometres away.

It would take a few years for the twin observatories to be ready. High-power meteor cameras were still in development, and it was difficult to get the special glass needed. The cameras also needed an internal heating apparatus to withstand the bone-chilling temperatures northern Alberta winters can bring. The first prototype, the "Super-Schmidt Meteor Camera," was completed in 1951.

As the space race heated up, Art Griffin spent summers working at the David Dunlap Observatory in Richmond Hill, just north of Toronto. Shortly before graduation, he spotted a job posting for an astronomer in northern Alberta. "The job in Newbrook sounded so exciting, I didn't ask the salary," he says. A few years earlier he had married Evelyn Treleaven, a petite, dark-haired woman from Toronto. Fortunately, she shared his enthusiasm about the job.

In September 1951, they arrived in Newbrook. As they stepped out of their new round-top green Chevrolet, their hearts sank. Newbrook was an isolated outpost surrounded by farmland. It had three general stores, twelve houses, four heavy machinery stores, and a twelve-room hotel with one bathroom. When they knocked on the door of the house the government had arranged for them to live in, they

Canadian space exploration: a timeline

1957 The space race begins with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics' launch of the Sputnik 1 satellite.

1957-58 Canada and the United States build the Churchill Research Range in northern Manitoba. In 1958, Canada's first science payload is launched aboard a Nike-Cajun sounding rocket.

1959

COURTESY OF ART GRIFFIN

With help from his assistants, Griffin (top left) installs the Super-Schmidt camera at his observatory in Newbrook, Alberta.

discovered that the owners had changed their minds. For the next three months, they lived at the Newbrook Hotel, taking their meals in the restaurant and paying fifty cents every time they took a bath. In January, they moved into a tiny, non-insulated one-room house heated only by a pot-bellied Quebec stove, which Evelyn spent the rest of the winter stoking.

Griffin faced challenges of his own. The Super-Schmidt Meteor Camera would not arrive until the following summer, but Griffin had to get the observatory ready. The white clapboard building stood in the centre of a 1.2-hectare parcel of land surrounded by a tall chain-link fence. It looked like an oversized shed with a small addition at one end. The addition housed Griffin's office and darkroom. A square glass cupola protruded from its flat roof. The main section of the building was the observatory itself. Steel runners jutted out from the front and back of its pointed roof. A wooden frame that looked like a painter's scaffolding supported the runners. An ingenious system of pulleys could force the sides of the roof to split apart and slide down the runners.

Awaiting the Super-Schmidt, Griffin built desks, cabinets, and a map table. He erected special poles for ten smaller outdoor cameras and installed the observatory's wiring. Phone service was unreliable (and the local switchboard closed at 8:00 p.m. anyway), so Griffin built a fifteen-metre-high radio tower to communicate with George Brealey and Jack Grant, the astronomers assigned to Meanook.

Field tests on the Super-Schmidt were completed in New York on May 8, 1952, after which it was sent directly to Edmonton on a Royal Canadian Air Force flight, then by special truck to Newbrook, arriving August 18. It took a specially built crane to lift it above the open roof and lower it into place on its concrete foundation. (An identical camera was installed at Meanook.) For the next six years, the observatory occupied most of Griffin's days and nights.

"Depending on the time of year," he says, "I would work five hours (each night). I was going continuously, changing cameras. I slept in the morning. Then I would clean up records and make new records of the work I'd done overnight." In the office, there was a special platform directly under the glass cupola, bearing a rotating chair known as a "coffin." Between photographs, Griffin would lie back in the chair and "get to know the stars and watch for meteorites."

GETTY

Scientists taking part in IGY (the International Geophysical Year, 1957-1958) view a model of the Sputnik satellite.

1960 — NASA approves a Canadian proposal to build the Alouette 1 satellite for studying the upper atmosphere.

1960 — Launch of the first Canadian hardware in space, aboard the U.S. navigation satellite Transit 2A.

1962 — Canada becomes the third country to have a satellite in space, when the Alouette-1 reaches 1,000 kilometres above Vandenburg Air Force Base in California.

The Sputnik satellite streaks across the night sky above Alberta in one of the photographs taken in 1957 by Art Griffin.

His main task was to help test the theory that meteors could affect re-entry of satellites into Earth's atmosphere. But this research would not be the achievement for which Griffin is remembered. That came six years after he began working at the observatory. By then, he was father to Jamie, five, and Lynne, two. A cozy three-bedroom house, just steps from the observatory, had replaced the shack in which he and Evelyn had spent their first winter.

In August 1953, the Soviets tested their first hydrogen bomb. That same year, the United States developed its own high-yield, lightweight thermonuclear device. Both nations began to develop intercontinental ballistic missiles that were capable of carrying those terrible weapons across oceans.

The space race had its origins in this fearful fight for nuclear dominance. Both sides wanted to track their opponent's progress in developing and stockpiling these tools of destruction. On July 29, 1955, White House press secretary James Hagerty announced that the U.S. would launch "small unmanned Earth satellites" that would circle the globe, providing information about the development of armaments. The Soviets quickly announced that they, too, would launch a satellite. Neither actually had a satellite to launch, so for the next two years they raced to develop a prototype to send into orbit. The Soviets won.

On October 4, 1957, Moscow Radio announced that the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics had launched an Earth satellite. Called Sputnik, it weighed eighty-three kilograms and was roughly the size of a soccer ball.

The news flash from Moscow jolted the world's gaze skywards. For the ninety-two days that Sputnik circled Earth, people searched the heavens with binoculars and home telescopes for signs of the Soviet satellite. Its signal was broadcast on radios and television. Newspapers featured front-page maps and diagrams showing its overhead flight path. And in Alberta, Art Griffin was unknowingly about to play a starring role in the unfolding drama.

Shortly after Sputnik's launch, Griffin received a phone call from American government officials asking him to watch for the satellite and to let them know when it entered the sky above the observatory. "They weren't very specific about when it would

1972 Canada's first communications satellite, the Anik A1 is launched.

1981 The Canadian designed and developed Canadarm is used on the NASA space shuttle Columbia.

1984 Astronaut Marc Garneau becomes the first Canadian in space as a payload scientist aboard space shuttle Challenger.

appear," recalls Griffin. He decided that he wasn't just going to watch for it – he was going to take its picture.

The Super-Schmidt was too slow and unwieldy for this particular photograph, so Griffin says he "prepared an outdoor camera that I could move around quickly."

To make a sight, he fastened a metal ring from one of Evelyn's canning jars to the end of a long, narrow wooden stick. At the other end, he attached a thin piece of metal with a tiny hole punched in it. He then mounted the contraption on top of the camera.

Early on October 9, five days after Sputnik had launched, Griffin carefully focused his camera at a point in the sky that he believed the satellite would cross. At 4:50 a.m. local time, what looked like the glow of a small flashlight appeared. Griffin dashed into the observatory to alert Jack Grant at Meanook, then ran back outside, peered through his makeshift sight, and at 4:52 a.m. local time, took the picture everyone was waiting for. Griffin's photograph was the first ever taken of a satellite. It was immediately sent to the Canadian government for study. Likely ending up on a bureaucrat's shelf in some dusty corner.

Griffin's snapshot received brief news attention, although the photograph was never published. The story of *Sputnik*'s photographer appeared in newspapers across Canada and around the world. The excitement soon died, though, and Griffin returned to meteor research. In 1959, Art Griffin left Newbrook to accept a position with the Dominion Observatory in Ottawa. Over the next twenty-three years, he investigated a crater lake in Manitoba and helped establish twelve research stations on the prairies, all dedicated to observing and recovering meteorites.

Today, Art Griffin is philosophical about his historic photograph. "Some of the people I worked with thought [the Sputnik photograph] wasn't so important, but a lot of people were interested in it," he muses. "We had a pretty exciting time."

Debbie Marshall is a writer and editor living in Spruce Grove, Alberta.

Et Cetera

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Canada and the Final Frontier

by Chris Webb

Canada's role in exploring the heavens goes as far back as 1839, when Sir Edwin Sabine set up the first magnetic observatory at the University of Toronto. Over a century later, Canada would launch some of the world's first suborbital sounding rockets from the Churchill Research Range in northern Manitoba that would probe the upper atmosphere. But it would be the clash of global superpowers that would truly propel Canada into the space race: The Alouette-1; Anik A1; the MOST telescope; the CanadArm. Sound familiar? If not, it may be time for a crash course in space history Canadiana.

After the collapse of the East-West alliance of the Second World War, and the rise of the United States and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics as ideologically opposed titans, a frenzy of scientific development and political rhetoric surrounding space exploration inculcated people on both sides of the polarized divide.

On September 29, 1962, Canada launched the Alouette-I scientific satellite. Seen by many as one of the most progressive space programs of that era, Canada became the third nation to design and build its own artificial Earth satellite.

The development of the Alouette-I was the result of budding international co-operation between NASA and Canadian scientists on upper-atmosphere research. The project was riddled with engineering problems, but after three-and-a-half years of design and construction, the 145-kilogram satellite was launched from the Pacific Missile Range in California.

Ten years after Canada's first research satellite was launched, Canada entered the developing field of satellite telecommunications with the Anik A1. This milestone made Canada the first nation to have a satellite in geostationary orbit for non-military purposes.

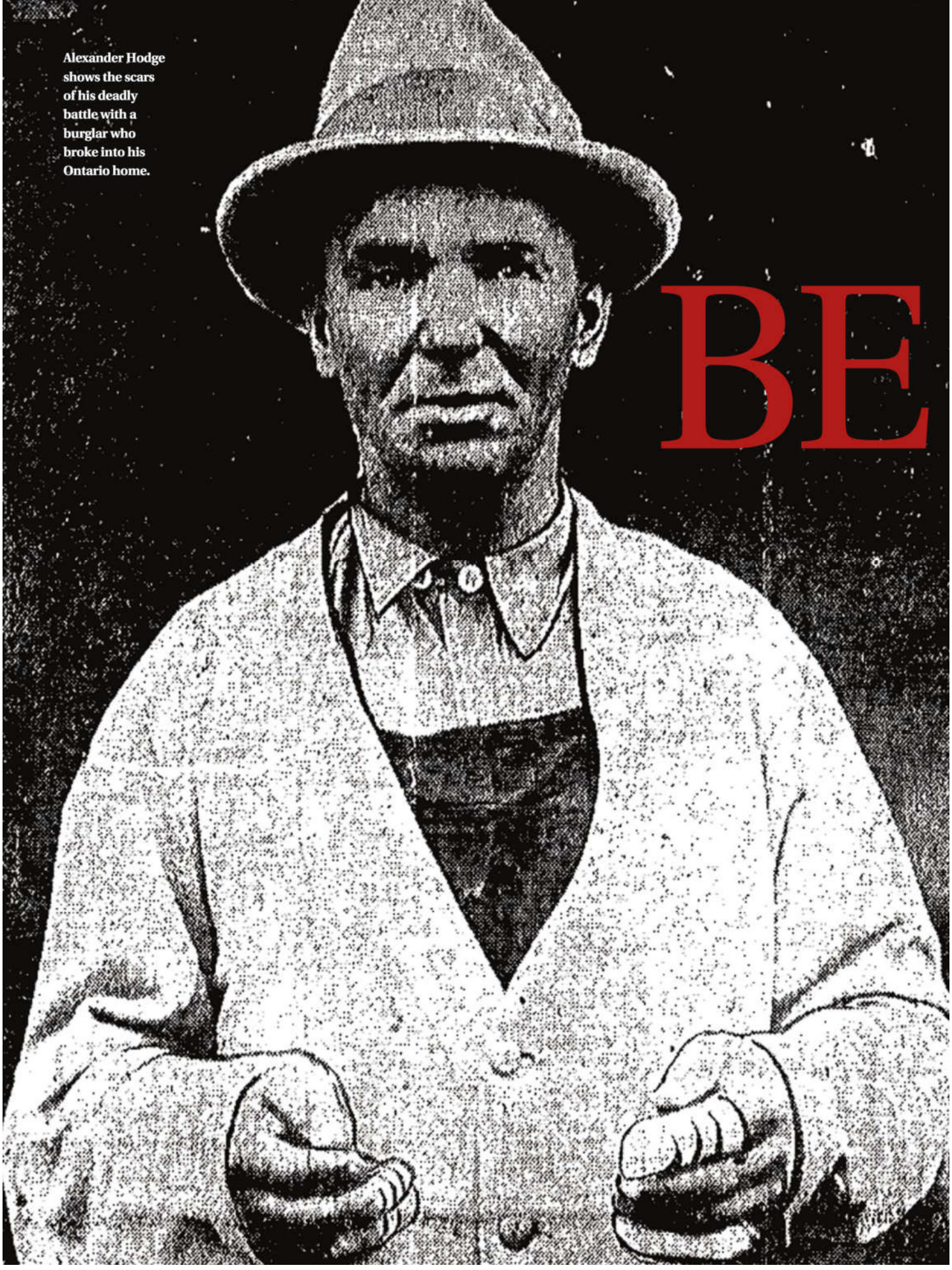
Since its creation in 1989, the Canadian Space Agency has set out to ensure that all Canadians learn and benefit from the advances and innovations in space technology.

Today, Canadians remain as captivated as ever by the exploration of the stars. Under a new spirit of co-operation, Canadian space scientists are working with several countries to further our knowledge of the universe.

1989 The Canadian Space Agency is created.

2001 Astronaut Chris Hadfield becomes the first Canadian to walk in space, spending a total of almost 15 hours outside the space shuttle Endeavour during two space walks.

2003 Canada's first space telescope, MOST, is launched from northern Russia.



Alexander Hodge shows the scars of his deadly battle with a burglar who broke into his Ontario home.

BE

WHEN BEETON WAS BUZZING

In the summer of 1927, a sensational attack in Beeton, Ontario, pushes Charles Lindbergh off page one. Even more shocking is the identity of the attacker.

by Dalene Flannigan

Newspapers recounted the tale in sensational detail: On the evening of Friday, July 22, 1927, a small, lonely bachelor named Alex Hodge was preparing for bed by the light of a single lamp in his farmhouse near Beeton, Ontario, when he heard the sound of a motor car in the distance. He went out to find two men parked on the road at his front gate, fearing that the muddy and rutted lane to Hodge's humble farmhouse would damage their wheels. Joe McDermott and Charlie Hammell, a pair of drovers (cattle dealers), had come to pay Hodge for his livestock. Dramatic newspaper illustrations would later show the three men huddled around the front of the car, counting out $610 in the glare of the headlights.

Returning to his farmhouse after Hammell and McDermott drove away, Hodge took the money from his pocket and slipped it behind a dish in the pantry. Just as he turned off the lamp, a man shone a flashlight on his face and said, "I'll kill you."

Sensational sketches in the *Toronto Daily Star*, *The Globe* and the *Toronto Telegram* provided a blow-by-blow re-enactment of the "titanic life-and-death battle" between the "stalwart yeoman and the stealthy yeggman." The fight, described by *The Globe* as "a primitive and terrific struggle – a battering, bruising, hacking, biting, scratching, tearing, kicking battle," lasted over forty-five minutes. "Blood seeped and soaked and spattered," wrote *The Globe*, "until death had decided the issue."

Hodge ran to a neighbour's farm, covered in blood, crying: "Hurry over with me, Willie. I've had a terrible fight and I think I've killed a man who tried to rob me." The county constable, the coroner, the doctor, friends, and neighbours were awakened, and the provincial police were contacted. The next morning, Beeton was buzzing.

That summer, Canadian newspapers were preoccupied with grand events: Charles Lindbergh had made the world's first non-stop transatlantic flight; Canadians from coast to coast had gathered around their radios to listen to the nation's first cross-country broadcast, an airing of the Diamond Jubilee of Confederation celebrations, and everywhere the emergence of the automobile was transforming society.

But in late July, Toronto newspapers turned their collective attention to a much more sinister local story.

TORONTO DAILY STAR

The Telegram, the *Toronto Daily Star*, and *The Globe*, along with a host of Ontario's regional papers, pushed Lindbergh off the front page, making room for a story that played on people's concerns about security at home and in the community.

With a population of 600, Beeton was small, but in 1927 it was no longer isolated. The town had both a Grand Trunk and a Canadian National Railway station. Motor cars carried a stream of strangers to and from this community located about 50 kilometres north of Toronto. Having something stolen wasn't impossible in this quiet hamlet, but having a stranger sneak into your home and attack you – in effect, experiencing a home invasion – was unthinkable. Even in Toronto it was rare and shocking – and apparently thrilling.

As news of the sensational killing spread, hastily organized tour groups travelled by motor car or train to the town, filling the only paved road into the community.

The curious crowds weren't there to see local celebrities, such as Kate Scott Aitken, the Canadian Martha Stewart of her day, or renowned beekeeper D.A. Jones – they hoped to have their picture taken with the heroic Alex Hodge. They came to peek through the window of Scottish-born farmer's tiny home, hoping to see the bloodstains on the wooden floor. It's estimated that more than two thousand people lined up outside the town hall that July weekend just to get a look at the unidentified body of the man Hodge had killed in self-defence.

In a town the size of Beeton, every face is known, but no one seemed to know the dead man. Although battered from the battle with Hodge, the attacker should still have been recognizable to an acquaintance or relative. For three days, people from around the region looked at the body, but no one stepped forward to identify the dead man. Officials even rounded up local barbers and marched them through the town hall to view the clean-shaven corpse. The dead man's fingerprints were sent off to Ottawa, Washington, and Scotland Yard for identification, but to no avail.

The dead man had no identifying papers, but evidence in his pockets tied him to many crimes that had taken place over the previous year: a Colt revolver; a ring with a dozen skeleton keys; two bottles of Carter's ink eraser; two ladies' watches; $167 in small bills; a fountain pen; a flashlight; a small jackknife; and four rings – one, a beautiful diamond ring belonging to a Mrs. Pearson, whose home had been broken into six weeks prior. Authorities found a bloodied chisel on Hodge's kitchen floor with a notched end that matched the marks on the Pearsons' door frame. The other jewellery was identified as having been stolen from various shop owners in Beeton and neighbouring towns. Many Beeton residents saw the recent crime wave as a nasty side effect of the automobile, which allowed ne'er-do-wells to quickly pass through.

The county coroner ordered a quick burial – a body left on display for four days in the July heat was not in the interests of public health. The good people of Beeton, however, refused to bury the bandit in their cemetery alongside their loved ones. Even the Toronto medical school refused the body. So, after heated debate, the corpse was buried on the grounds of the County House of Refuge and recorded as "At Present Unknown."

35TH YEAR THIRTY-TWO PAGES TORONTO, SATUR

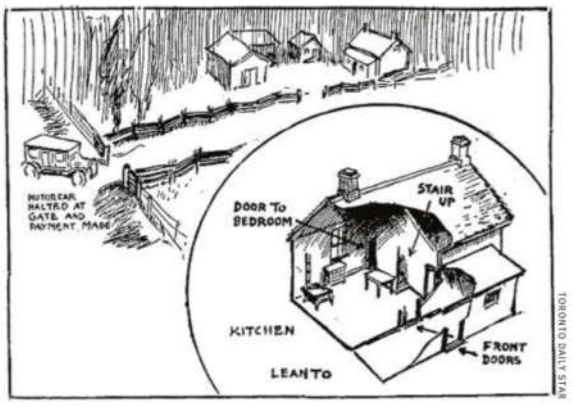
FARMER BATTERS MIDN

Crown Attorney of Simcoe Sa

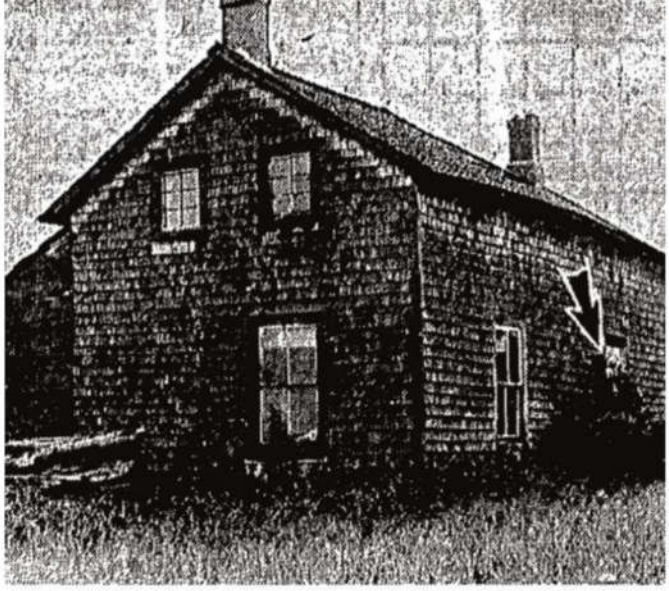
However, the body didn't stay unknown for long.

An anonymous tip led police to Cookstown, a town bordering Beeton, to interview a local farmer, George Forsythe. George steadfastly refused any relation to the corpse but it wasn't long before others came forward and identified the dead man as Dan Forsythe, George's brother. George's neighbour produced a photograph of Dan, taken at George's farm.

With the identification of Dan Forsythe, the story of the Beeton killings should have quickly fallen off the



This sketch, by the *Toronto Daily Star*, indicates the arrangement of the buildings and the lane leading up to Alex Hodge's house.


TORONTO DAILY STAR

In this *Toronto Daily Star* photograph, an arrow shows the window used by the burglar to break into Hodge's house.

front pages of most papers – but the shocking revelations at the ensuing inquest into his death would thrust the town back into the spotlight, where it would remain headline news for the rest of 1927.

But this gang was not from Toronto; it was made up of the good citizens of Beeton and Cookstown – farmers and family men. The same men who shook hands at church on Sunday had been pilfering their neighbours' pigs and cattle on Friday night, as well as robbing their stores and rifling through their mailboxes. And Joseph McDermott, a very well-respected citizen, was their leader.

Beeton was scandalized, and Toronto fascinated, by the sordid tale. In all, ten men were arrested, convicted, and handed a range of sentences, including a six-year term in Kingston prison for McDermott. The newspapers touted the Beeton cattle-rustling case as "Bigger than Lindbergh!" And for a while it was, at least in Ontario.

Dalene Flannigan is a playwright and novelist living in Cambridge, Ontario. She was commissioned by the Tecumseth and West Gwillimbury Historical Society to write a play based on the Beeton cattle-rustling case, which is scheduled for production this year. She can be contacted at: dalenef@rogers.com.

DAY, JULY 23, 1927 5 O'CLOCK EDITION TWO CENTS

IGHT ROBBER TO DEATH

ys Killing Apparently Justified

As witnesses at the inquest stepped forward to identify the dead man, George Forsythe continued to claim that he did not recognize the body. When pushed, however, he acquiesced that it might be due to the battered condition of the deceased's face. Soon other witnesses came forward with a more shocking claim – they had seen Dan Forsythe in the company of one of Beeton's most esteemed citizens, Joe McDermott, the drover who paid Alex $610 dollars the night of the attack. McDermott testified that he had never met the dead man or any man named Dan Forsythe, but the number of witnesses grew. By the end of the inquest, as he tried to leave the town hall, McDermott was arrested for perjury.

After that, the other culprits behind the attack seemed to fall like dominoes.

As one man's confession implicated the next man, the police uncovered a conspiracy of thieves that had been operating in the Beeton area for two years. In addition to break-and-enters and other thefts, the criminals had been rustling cattle and pigs, altering the branding, and shipping them to stockyards in Toronto.

What happened to Alex Hodge?

Unfortunately, Alex Hodge, the unassuming hero of the tale, didn't fare much better than the criminals. During the bloody struggle in the kitchen, Dan Forsythe chewed on Hodge's fingers, damaging them so severely that Hodge suffered constant infections. He couldn't work with his hands and lost his farm. The people of Beeton threw a parade in Hodge's honour and presented him with $300, a gold watch, and a government job at a hospital in nearby Whitby, Ontario. But Alex had only known farming. He took to drink and sadly, six years later, killed a man while driving under the influence.

– D.F.

THE WORST CANADIANS?

Love him or hate him, Pierre Trudeau transformed the nation. By voting him Canada's worst, you showed that one person's hero is often another's villain.

by Mark Reid and Jennifer Campbell

To many Canadians, Pierre Elliot Trudeau ranks among our greatest prime ministers. He was Canada's first political rock star – a charismatic Quebecer who strode to power in 1968 and inspired an optimistic nation with dreams of a Charter of Rights and Freedoms, a patriated Constitution, and a bilingual, multicultural Canada.

So when we asked our readers to weigh in with their choice for the Worst Canadian in history, we didn't expect Trudeau to top the list.

But top it he did, beating out an obscure punk rocker by a couple hundred votes – a result that perhaps speaks as much about the perils of online polling as it does about the love-hate relationship Canadians have had with this paradoxical prime minister, who could wear a flower in his lapel while giving critics the finger.

To balance this admittedly unscientific survey, we also polled a panel of experts – ten of Canada's most renowned historians and writers of popular history – to come up with an alternative list, one that's arguably more measured and takes into consideration the full breadth and scope of Canadian history.

Trudeau didn't make the cut on the alternative list – but many of you did vote for at least some of the experts' choices. In fact, the response was overwhelming, with almost 15,000 votes cast. And since the goal of the poll was to spark a broader discussion of Canada's history – including debate over the many contentious characters that have, for good or for ill, shaped our nation – we consider the exercise a resounding success.

As for Trudeau, it's clear from the results that he remains a polarizing figure.

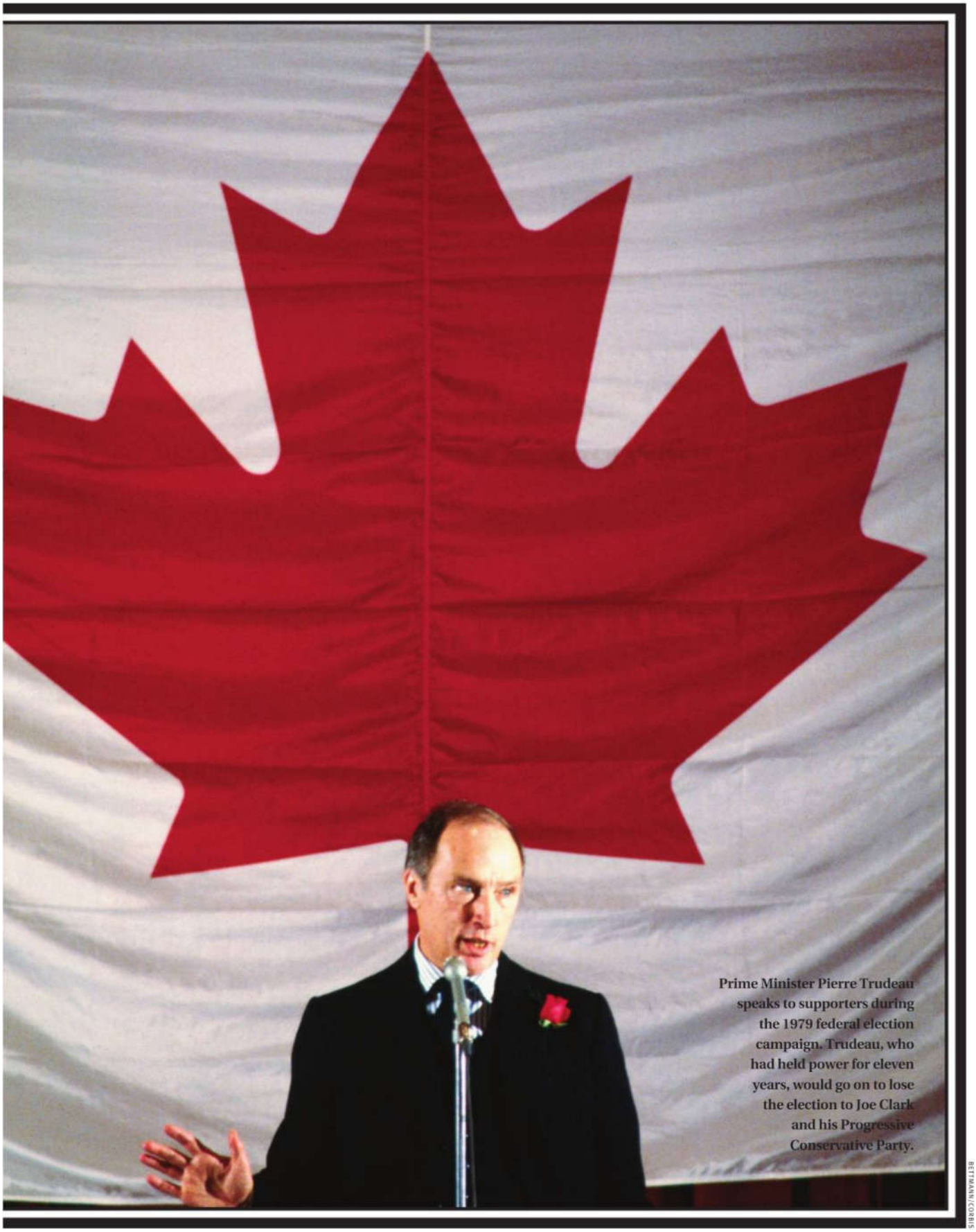
"He did more to divide East and West than any PM in history," one voter wrote.

"The man was an economic disaster," wrote another. "High deficits, high taxes, social programs that did not work … he was an economic failure and we are still paying for it now."

One voter condemned the former prime minister for failing to live up to the promise he displayed as a young politician.

"In 1968, Trudeau was elected for the qualities we thought he had: He seemed to be a young, vibrant, energetic leader… He was to be the conduit between East and West, French and English Canada…. In the end, he did irreparable damage to our country."

Trudeau's potent combination of vision, charisma and celebrity was exactly what many Canadians were searching for in a leader in the tumultuous 1960s. His admirers today



Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau speaks to supporters during the 1979 federal election campaign. Trudeau, who had held power for eleven years, would go on to lose the election to Joe Clark and his Progressive Conservative Party.

BETTMANN/CORBIS

The Public's Picks

1. Pierre Trudeau
2. Chris Hannah
3. Henry Morgentaler
4. Brian Mulroney
5. Paul Bernardo & Karla Homolka
6. Stephen Harper
7. Celine Dion
8. Jean Chrétien
9. Clifford Olson
10. Conrad Black

The opinions expressed herein and of the rankings provided are compiled from votes and comments of visitors to The Beaver*'s website and not those of* The Beaver*, its editorial staff, Canada's National History Society, its board, employees or affiliates.*

would argue he was the catalyst for Canada's coming of age as a modern, pluralistic society.

Yet Trudeau could also be dismissive to those who opposed him, and his sweeping efforts to transform Canada made him many political enemies.

David Bercuson, a professor of history at the University of Calgary, says it's not surprising that Trudeau figured so prominently in the poll.

"Trudeau left a lot of grudges behind," Bercuson says. "He had little understanding of the Canadian West and not much more understanding of Atlantic Canada – and he was brazen in exhibiting his biases.

"Alberta will forever hate him for the national energy program. He rode roughshod over premiers – some of whom richly deserved it – and that did not play well locally. He brought momentous change to Canada with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and some people today think he went too far."

There's no question that Trudeau changed Canada, as well as how Canadians view themselves. He achieved great things while in office, but, for some voters, Trudeau's accomplishments came at too high a cost.

"Trudeau was by no means the worst Canadian…" Bercuson argues. "[However,] no man or woman who is forceful, sure of themselves, and dedicated to change – no matter the consequences – will maintain popularity."

Trudeau was loved and hated, exalted, respected and despised by Canadians – all at the same time. His example illustrates the conundrum that arises in trying to define something as ambiguous as the Worst Canadian – often, one person's hero is another's villain.

When we ask "Who is the Worst Canadian?" we are really asking voters to bare their souls. Their answers will be tempered by their personal, political, religious, and socio-economic agendas. East versus West, urban versus rural; English and French and immigrant perspectives; these are among the divides that face Canada today and the biases that influence the survey's results.

We encourage you to take the Worst Canadians survey in the spirit in which it was intended. There's value inherent in the discussion of the nominees and how they affected Canada that transcends the results themselves. And we're pleased to have received many thoughtful arguments for the many obscure, yet deserving nominees from the past.

"Not surprisingly, our historians' list provides a more considered and measured response, reflecting a deeper perspective of both time itself, as well as the restraint of the discipline in assigning cause and impact to certain people and events," says Deborah Morrison, publisher of *The Beaver*.

"But the survey also provided a rare opportunity to engage the broader public in developing some of that historical perspective.

"History isn't supposed to be just about the victories. We learn just as much from our errors and mistakes as we do for the things we get right. I view the project as successful for the many conversations this survey has started around kitchen tables, water coolers, and elsewhere."

In the following pages, you'll be introduced to a host of controversial, contentious characters. Some will be familiar, many will not. All of them have, in some way, left their mark on Canada.

It was Trudeau who once said: "History is never neutral." So in that spirit, we encourage you to join the conversation. Weigh in with your choice for the Worst Canadian – and let the debate begin.

Trudeau: In His Own Words

"Zap, you're frozen." – June 29, 1974, ridiculing a Conservative proposal for wage and price controls.

"Well, just watch me." – Oct. 13, 1970, when asked how far he would push the War Measures Act.

"Well, why should I sell the Canadian farmers' wheat?" – Dec. 13, 1968, speech in Winnipeg.

DISHONOURABLE MENTION

In choosing the Worst Canadians, voters revealed as much about themselves as they did their nominees.

by Mark Reid

Chris who? If that's your reaction to learning that Chris Hannah came a close second to Pierre Trudeau in voting for the Worst Canadian, don't worry – it's our reaction, too.

Hannah is a Winnipeg-based punk rocker who openly campaigned for votes, saying on his band's website: "I don't stand during *O Canada*. I hate Wayne Gretzky. I am THE worst Canadian and you know it." Canada's history is rife with ne'er-do-wells and knaves – plenty of whom are certainly more villainous than Hannah. Yet he's just one of a cast of contemporary characters to receive nominations for the Worst Canadian.

We received a flood of votes for today's pop idols, politicians, jocks and celebrities – most of whom are about as malevolent as Anne of Green Gables. So what gives? Are we so focused on the here and now that we can't identify with people from our more distant past – including those contemptible characters whose misdeeds impacted our nation?

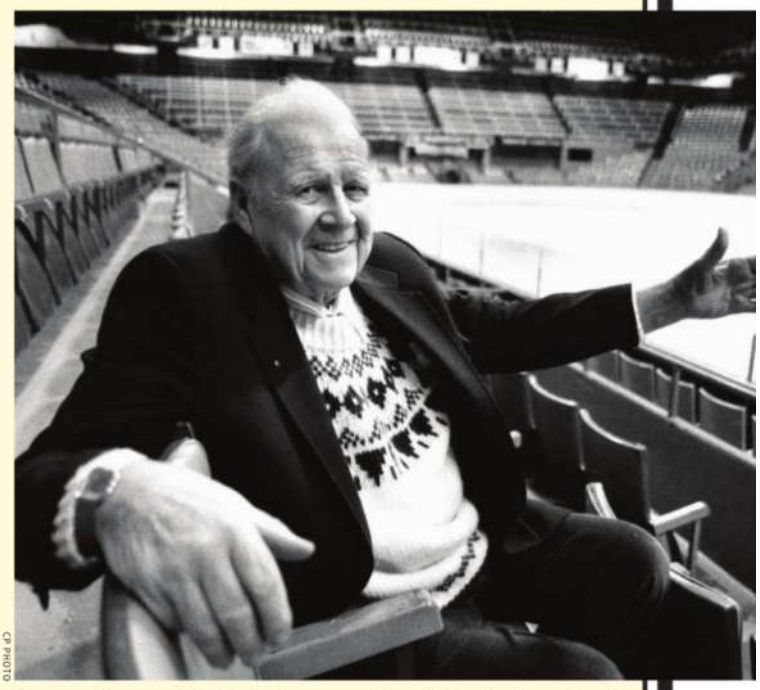
Rudyard Griffiths, executive director of the Dominion Institute, says Canadians have short memories.

"As a nation of amnesiacs, it's not surprising that the length of our historical memory is revealed by the list," Griffiths says. However, Doug Owram, a history professor and Vice-Chancellor of the University of British Columbia, counters that the appearance of so many characters, plucked straight from today's headlines, suggests that many voters "are present-minded. It doesn't necessarily mean they don't know any history – but it means they don't think historically," Owram says.

This is by no means a definitive list of Worst Canadians. If anything, the survey was a cheeky, interactive way for *The Beaver* to spark a conversation with our readers and the broader Canadian public. We asked your opinion, and you dared to answer – often with a healthy sprinkling of humour.

Take, for example, one voter's argument for Harold Ballard, the much-maligned former owner of the Toronto Maple Leafs: "He crushed the hopes and dreams of an entire city for decades," the voter wrote, "and as a Habs fan, I loved it."

Even *The Beaver* took its lumps, with several voters condemning its editorial staff for choosing to conduct the survey in the first place.



CP PHOTO

Former Toronto Maple Leafs owner Harold Ballard received votes for mismanaging his team, thereby ensuring the continuation of the Leafs' Stanley Cup drought.

Judging from the results, voters generally disliked Canadians who – in their view – turned their backs on Canada by rejecting their citizenship or moving elsewhere to seek fame and fortune. Voters also disliked Canadians who – they believed – sold out our sports teams, businesses, or cultural institutions to foreign interests, thereby diminishing our collective national identity.

Some of you, though, insisted on looking at the bright side: "I think we're lucky," one voter wrote, "not to have a Vlad the Impaler or Marquis de Sade" in our past.

THE UN-CANADIANS

The public vote uncovered many obscure scoundrels from our past. Here are a few for your consideration:

GENERAL JEFFREY AMHERST
(1717-1797)
First Governor General of British North America. Backed plans to give smallpox-infested blankets to First Nations people.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL ROBERT MONCKTON
(1726-1782)
A colonial administrator in British North America (after whom the city of Moncton, New Brunswick, is named). Executed the expulsion of the Acadians in 1755 with ruthless efficiency.

ALEXANDER KEITH, JR.
(1827-1875)
The notorious nephew of Alexander Keith, the Halifax brewery founder. A swindler, spy, mass murderer, terrorist. Killed 80 people as part of an insurance fraud plot to blow up ocean liners.

JOHN CHRISTIAN SCHULTZ
(1840-1896)
An extremely unpopular Manitoban politician and businessman, Schultz was notorious for his unscrupulous business practices in the Red River Colony. He approved and encouraged violence against Louis Riel's provisional government.

NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN
(1843-1901)
Conservative MP whose study of a United States Indian education system laid the groundwork for the notorious residential school system that removed First Nations children from their families, culture and language.

SIR WILLIAM THOMAS WHITE
(1866-1955)
As minister of finance under Robert Borden's Conservative government, White introduced a four percent income tax. Although this was intended as a temporary war measure, income tax became a permanent feature of Canadian life.

EZEKIEL STONE WIGGINS
(1839-1910)
Canadian civil servant and author who exploited Canadians' obsession with the weather, predicting a calamitous storm that never materialized. Also claimed the sun was inhabited and a second moon was responsible for cold weather.

ARTHUR ELLIS
(PSEUDONYM OF ARTHUR ENGLISH)
(1865-1938)
A Canadian hangman and alcoholic who routinely botched executions – including one in which a woman was decapitated. [The Crime Writers of Canada names its literary awards after him.]

ALBERT JOHNSON, A.K.A. THE MAD TRAPPER
(N/A-1932)
Johnson was a loner who tampered with traplines in the Northwest Territories, sparking a violent confrontation and massive manhunt. The chase lasted five weeks and covered more than 150 kilometres, becoming the stuff of legends. Johnson killed one RCMP officer and wounded another before eventually dying in a hail of bullets in Eagle River, Yukon.

GENERAL EDWARD CORNWALLIS
(1713-1776)
British military officer known as the "Founder of Halifax." He waged war against the First Nations peoples in the region, infamously ordering a bounty on Mi'kmaq adults and children.

ARTHUR MEIGHEN
(1874-1960)
Acting minister of justice in the Borden government during the Winnipeg General Strike. Meighen was responsible for anti-strike legislation that allowed for the deportation, without trial, of British-born strike leaders.

JOHN CHRISTIAN SCHULTZ: MANITOBA ARCHIVES; NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN: SASKATCHEWAN ARCHIVES BOARD/R-A9644; EDWARD CORNWALLIS; GEORGES ISLAND : THE KEEP OF HALIFAX HARBOUR DIANNE MARSHALL, HALIFAX, N.S. (ARCHIVES CANADA)

Canada's Hall of INFAMY

The Beaver's history panel weighs in with its choices for the most contemptible Canadians.

by David Bercuson, Michael Bliss, Graham Broad, Margaret Conrad, Will Ferguson, Daniel Francis, Charlotte Gray, Christopher Moore, Desmond Morton and Winona Wheeler
Illustrations by Dushan Milic

Adrien Arcand (1899–1967)

The Nazi Nasty

BY CHARLOTTE GRAY

AUTHOR AND POPULAR HISTORIAN

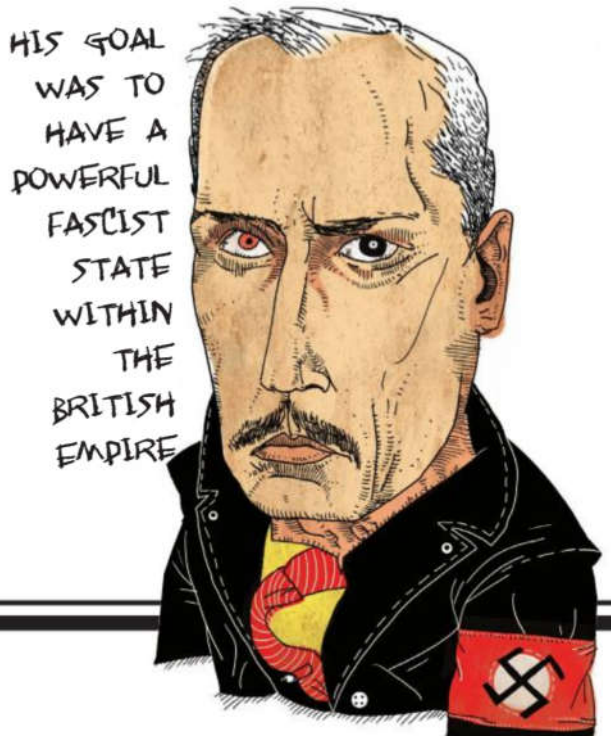
At a Montreal meeting in early 1939, journalist Adrien Arcand, leader of the newly formed National Unity Party, ranted triumphantly to his loyal "Blue Shirt" followers. He declared himself Canada's homegrown Hitler – a charismatic führer who represented the superiority of the white race. His goal was a powerful fascist state within the British Empire.

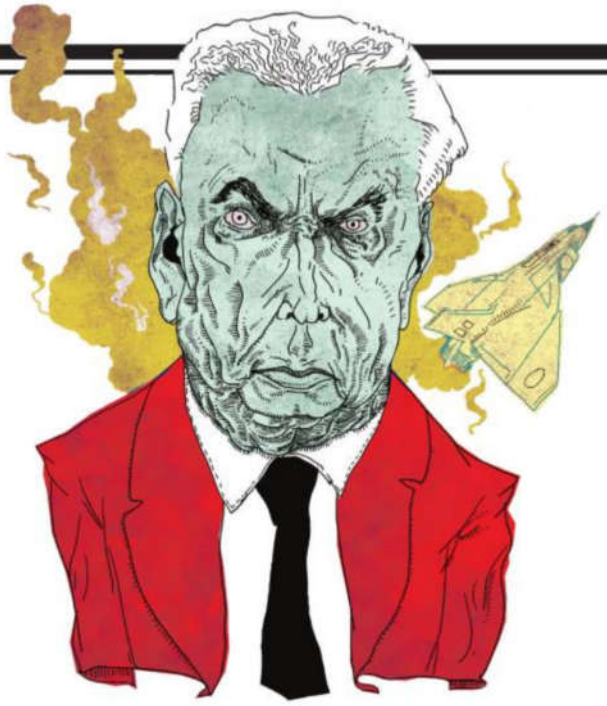
During the 1930s, this McGill University-educated fanatic had published several anti-Communist, anti-Semitic newspapers and campaigned to resettle Canadian Jews near Hudson Bay. The National Unity Party was the latest in a series of far-right parties Arcand founded – a typical Arcand logo featured a swastika surrounded by maple leaves and crowned by a beaver.

Despite his racist views, Arcand was no pariah. Hundreds attended his rallies, and Canadian Conservative leader Richard Bennett reportedly paid for this staunch federalist's help during the 1930 and 1935 elections.

Canada declared war on Germany in September 1939, and by May 1940, authorities had arrested Arcand as a security threat.

Thrown into an internment camp, Arcand raved to all who would listen that he would rule Canada once Germany won the war. Even after his release, his faith in Hitler never wavered. Arcand continued to hover menacingly on the lunatic fringes of Canadian politics, and in the 1960s mentored Holocaust-denier Ernst Zündel.





John Diefenbaker (1895–1979)

The Detrimental Chief

BY CHRISTOPHER MOORE

AUTHOR AND POPULAR HISTORIAN

For his faith in ordinary citizens, his commitment to a Bill of Rights, and his stirring oratory, John Diefenbaker deserves his place on the list of great Canadians. But the damage the former Progressive Conservative prime minister did to Canada's political institutions was enormous. No one did more to fix in place the situation that has plagued Canadian politics ever since – the leader as one-man show.

A disgruntled, ineffective loner as a Member of Parliament, Diefenbaker became the first party leader to seize the leadership against the will of the party's MPs. Claiming a mystical bond with the Canadian people, he ran his government largely alone, without regard to cabinet or caucus, responsible to no one.

He served as prime minister from 1957 to 1963 before losing the federal election to Lester Pearson and the Liberals. During his stint in power, he made many controversial decisions, most notably, cancelling the Avro Arrow project in 1959. In defeat, he shattered his party rather than accept party discipline.

In his long twilight, repudiated by the voters, his caucus, and his party, he proclaimed himself a House of Commons man. But the essence of parliamentary government is accountability to one's parliamentary peers.

Dief the Chief showed that you could go a long way in Canadian politics while accepting accountability to no one. He has inspired many imitators.

Inouye Kanao (1916–1947)

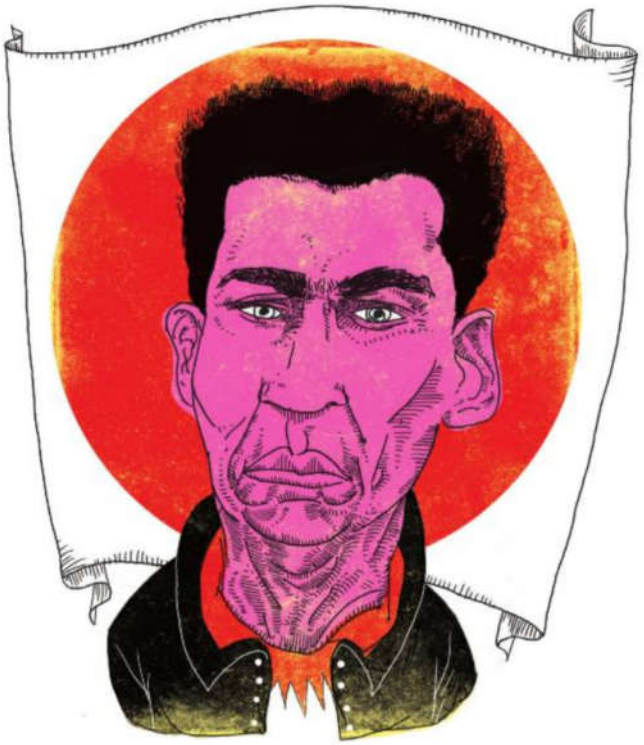
The Kamloops Kid

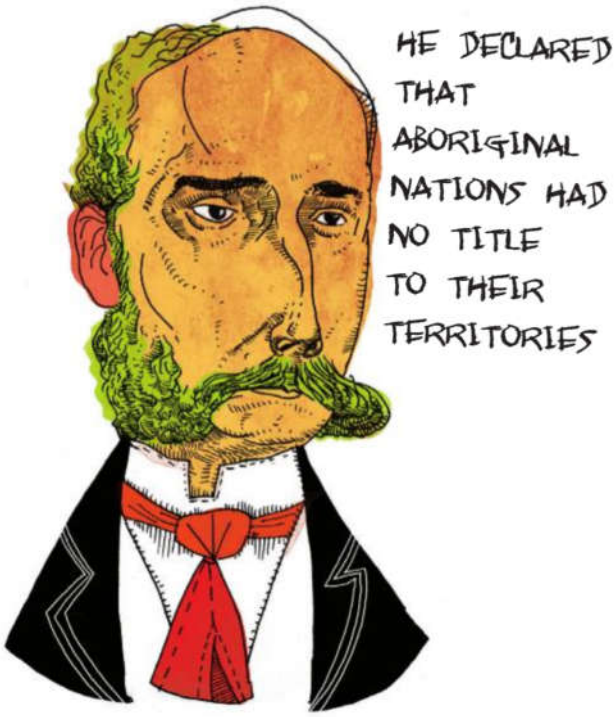
BY DAVID BERCUSON
HISTORIAN, UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Inouye Kanao was the son of Japanese immigrants. He was born in Kamloops, British Columbia, sometime in the late 1920s, and grew up in the British Columbia interior. He moved to Japan prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor and joined the Japanese Army. Kanao was assigned as a translator and guard for Canadians who had been taken prisoner at Hong Kong and were incarcerated at Sham Shui Po, a POW camp in Hong Kong Territory.

Kanao was among the most brutal of the men the Canadians encountered there. He took particular relish in beating and otherwise maltreating the prisoners and taunting them in his perfect English. He told them that his conduct was "payback" for the way he had been treated as a child of Japanese immigrants in Canada. When the prisoners found out where Kanao was from, they dubbed him "The Kamloops Kid."

Kanao was taken prisoner at the end of the war. Unlike many other Japanese camp guards, an international tribunal in Japan did not try him, because he claimed that he was a Canadian citizen. He was instead sent back to Canada, where he was tried for treason, found guilty and hanged.





Joseph Trutch (1826–1904)

The Commissioner Without Conscience

BY DANIEL FRANCIS
AUTHOR AND POPULAR HISTORIAN

During his thirty years in British Columbia, Joseph Trutch was many things: road builder, politician, lieutenant-governor, advocate of Confederation, anti-democrat, confidant of premiers and prime ministers. But his place in the hall of shame is secured by the seven years he spent as British Columbia's chief commissioner of lands and works, from 1864 to 1871.

The job sounds innocuous enough, but in pre-Confederation British Columbia it included responsibility for Indian policy. It was here that Trutch did maximum damage. In his view the First Nations were "uncivilized savages" who deserved nothing for their land. In fact, he thought the sooner it was taken from them, the sooner the province would develop into a model European society.

Trutch broke with the more generous policies of British Columbia Governor James Douglas, taking back land that already had been granted to First Nations and ensuring that the best of the rest went to white settlers. In addition, he denied that aboriginal nations had any title to their territories, an opinion that contradicted established British policy, but one that nonetheless prevailed. As historian Robin Fisher notes, Trutch "left British Columbia with a legacy of litigation and a political problem that is unresolved to the present day."

John Christopher Reiffenstein (1779–1840)

The Panic-Stricken Soldier

BY DESMOND MORTON
HISTORIAN, MCGILL UNIVERSITY

John Christopher Reiffenstein committed an officer's cardinal sin: thinking first, last, and always about himself. Reiffenstein joined the British army in 1795 and was commissioned as ensign and adjutant of the 98th Regiment in 1804. He resigned in 1808 for the more lucrative post of quartermaster of the Newfoundland Regiment. Then, in 1811, a court martial determined that Reiffenstein had charged his men double the price for equipment, but little else could be proven because he had destroyed the official receipts. Once again, Reiffenstein resigned.

His military career resumed in the Lower Canadian Militia. Appointed a staff officer, he eventually joined General Henry Procter on the Detroit frontier in the fight against the United States.

On October 5, 1813, Chief Tecumseh demanded that Procter and the British make a stand against the American cavalry. Reiffenstein's superior, Lieutenant Colonel Augustus Warburton, stayed to fight and to die. Reiffenstein, however, fled the battlefield and raced all the way to Burlington Heights, where he reported that Procter's army had been captured and that 8,000 Americans were in hot pursuit. While Upper Canada's defenders abandoned their fortifications in despair, Reiffenstein continued to spread panic as he raced to safety through York and Kingston.

He was wrong. The Americans stayed close to Detroit, and even Procter escaped with his family, leaving Tecumseh and his Shawnee warriors to perish in a swamp.

Sam Hughes (1853–1921)

The Boastful Bungler

BY GRAHAM BROAD
HISTORIAN, KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Sir Sam Hughes, minister of militia from 1911 to 1916, was a "conceited lunatic" in the opinion of Prince Arthur, the Duke of Connaught and Canada's tenth governor general. Hughes spent July 1914 fretting over the possibility that war might somehow be avoided through negotiation and compromise. No one was happier that it was not.

The ardent Canadian nationalist went on to bungle just about everything he touched.

Among his many failures was the MacAdam Shield-Shovel – a combination shovel and shield with a hole in its blade for shooting through. The five-pound tool, invented by Hughes and mass-produced for the army, proved useless. Hughes also stubbornly dismissed concerns about the Ross Rifle, a bolt-action .303 that often jammed during rapid fire, endangering the lives of thousands of troops.

Overseas, the Canadians accomplished great things in spite of him. Prime Minister Robert Borden finally rid cabinet of his malign influence in late 1916 after the increasingly impertinent Hughes tried to independently overrule the prime minister's decrees.

Anti-French, anti-Catholic, anti-intellectual, and utterly convinced of his own infallibility, Hughes liked to boast that he deserved not one, but two Victoria Crosses for his actions in the Boer War. What he deserved was a Ross rifle, a MacAdam Shield-Shovel, and a trench to take. His life and career are proof that almost anybody can get knighted.

Sir John A. Macdonald (1815–1891)

The Oppressive Prime Minister

BY WINONA WHEELER
HISTORIAN, ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY

Sir John A. Macdonald's "national dream" was a nightmare for First Nations in Canada. In his drive to forge a transcontinental railway and rapidly settle the West – thereby creating a grain-exporting economy and a domestic market for eastern Canadian products – Macdonald waged an unofficial war against the region's Indian and Métis people.

Under Macdonald's government, breaches of treaty obligations, starvation, negligence and manipulation fanned Indian and Métis fears, culminating in the 1885 Indian Treaty Grievance Movement and the Métis Resistance.

The resulting Canadian military campaigns ended in the largest mass hanging of Indians in Canada, the execution of Métis leader Louis Riel, and the imprisonment of many more Métis and Indian people.

The Métis were dispossessed of their lands and dispersed, and Indian people were subjected to oppressive policies under the Indian Act, including reserve-land surrenders and the outlawing of traditional ceremonies. Thousands of Indian and Métis people were left destitute and leaderless, but Macdonald got his Canadian Pacific Railway.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"I want to get rid of the Indian problem. Our object is to continue until there is not a single Indian in Canada that has not been absorbed. They are a weird and waning race … ready to break out at any moment in savage dances; in wild and desperate orgies."

– Duncan Campbell Scott (1920)

"There are great forces against me, great interests against me, both national and international. Everyone is against me but the people."

– John Diefenbaker (1963)

"The aeroplane is an invention of the devil and will never play any part in such a serious business as the defence of a nation, my boy."

– Sam Hughes (1914)

"I no longer control. I still dominate."

– Max Aitken, Lord Beaverbrook (1956)

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"The action of the natural forces making for the consolidation of the lesser country with the greater have already prepared the minds of most intelligent Canadians for the destiny that awaits them: and a leader will be forthcoming when the hour arrives."

— Edward Farrer

(1891, from pamphlet urging Canada's annexation with the United States)

"I think they are the ugliest and laziest creatures I ever saw and we should as soon think of being afraid of our dogs as of them."

— Joseph Trutch

(1850, referring to aboriginal people)

"We have sanitary health laws to guard against food poisoning. Why not a law against ... poisonous ideologies?"

— Adrien Arcand (1947, speaking to Time *magazine about the need to curb the power of the press when he takes control of Canada.)*

"He shall hang though every dog in Quebec bark in his favour."

— Sir John A. Macdonald

(Speaking prior to Louis Riel's execution in 1885)

Max Aitken, Lord Beaverbrook (1879–1964)

The Dubious Dilettante

BY MICHAEL BLISS
HISTORIAN, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Max Aitken made a lot of money selling securities and merging companies in Edwardian Canada, which he then used to buy his way into the establishment when he moved to England.

As Lord Beaverbrook, he created a chain of mediocre newspapers, which he used to advance his personal and political hobby horses. Although a personal confidant of Winston Churchill, he served without distinction in senior British cabinet positions during World War II.

Aitken's career was built almost solely on money and what it could buy. He contributed substantially to the corruption of British politics – specifically, the habit of buying titles and influence – and, except for morsels of patronage tossed to New Brunswick, contributed little else to the improvement of Canada.

Individuals who had profited from his favours generated the most extravagant estimations of Beaverbrook's influence. But Britain, Canada, and the Empire would have been better off if Aitken had lost in the game of rich colonials returning to the mother country in search of titles and power.

Today, there is virtually nothing left of his business empire or his historical reputation, only unseemly squabbles about a few valuable pictures given to an art gallery in Fredericton.

Even Beaverbrook's most friendly biographer, A.J.P. Taylor, admits: "Many people regarded him as an indescribably wicked, evil man."

Edward Farrer (1850–1919)

The Jaded Journalist

BY MARGARET CONRAD

HISTORIAN, UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

Arriving in Canada in 1870, Edward Farrer worked at a variety of jobs, most relating to newspaper journalism in Toronto and Winnipeg. His biographer, Carman Cumming, notes that Farrer was fired in 1884 from the editorship of the *Winnipeg Daily Times* as a result of a drinking spree.

During his brief tenure as editor of the *Winnipeg Daily Sun* in 1884, he advocated, among other things, Western separatism and annexation to the United States. Though a gifted journalist, he used his talents to fan the flames of anti-French and anti-Roman Catholic sentiment while editor of the *Toronto Daily Mail* from 1885 to 1890.

In the wake of the Northwest Rebellion of 1885, Farrer launched a campaign against French-Canadian and Roman Catholic church influence in government and made the *Daily Mail* the mouthpiece for D'Alton McCarthy's so-called "equal rights" campaign, designed to eliminate constitutional protections for Roman Catholic schools and French language rights in Ontario and the West.

While possibly not the author, he took credit (or blame) for a pamphlet advising U.S. policy-makers on ways to pressure Canada into political union, and thus for the scandal it provoked during the federal election campaign of 1891. Had Farrer's arguments carried the day, there would be no Canada at all.

Duncan Campbell Scott (1862–1947)

The Rhyming Racist

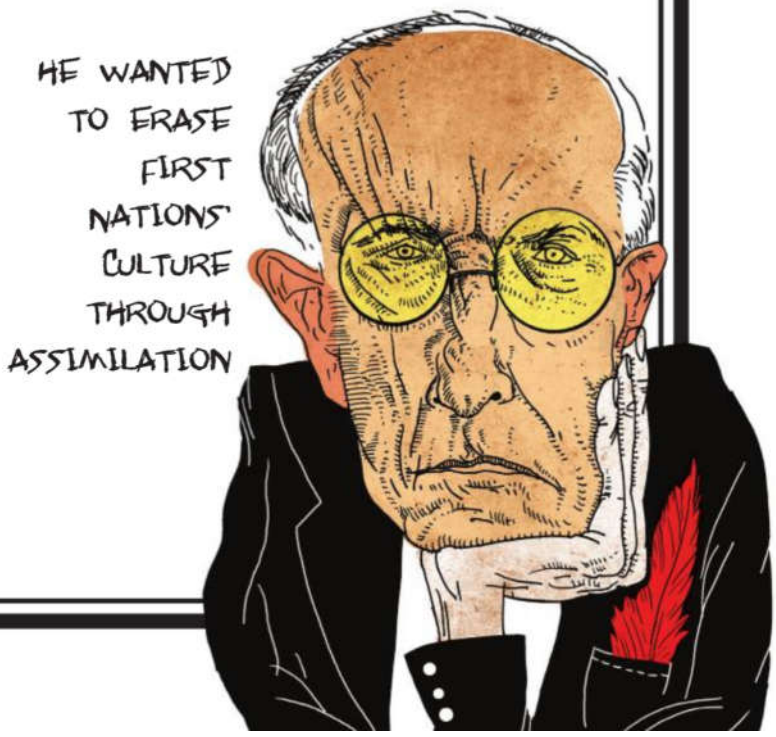
BY WILL FERGUSON

AUTHOR AND POPULAR HISTORIAN

Duncan Campbell Scott had a real knack for killing Indians. His poems are littered with the bodies of Indians who died gruesome and romantic deaths. Throughout the carnage, he bemoans the twilight passing of Canada's "tragic savages," calling them "that weird and waning race." And no wonder. The director of Indian policy during that time stated: "The government will in time reach the end of its responsibility as the Indians progress into civilization and finally disappear as a separate and distinct people, not by race extinction but by gradual assimilation." The bureaucrat's name? None other than Duncan Campbell Scott.

Scott was Canada's senior administrator of Indian policy from 1913 to 1932. Under his watch, aboriginal ceremonies and regalia were outlawed, aboriginal communities were barred from making legal claims against the government, and Indians were not permitted to leave reserve property without a pass. "The Indian in himself had no title to the soil demanding recognition," wrote Scott in 1914, "nor, in his inferior position as a savage, had he any rights which could become the subject of treaty or negotiation."

As a poet and a bureaucrat, Duncan Campbell Scott represents the two extremes of how Canadians have dealt with aboriginal peoples: romanticizing them ridiculously on the one hand, and marginalizing them on the other.



WINNIPEG'S RED SCARE

As thousands of strikers took to the streets in 1919, the press waged its own propaganda war against the workers. Wasn't the Winnipeg's General Strike really a Bolshevik plot? Almost all Canadian newspapers said so – except one. by Michael Dupuis

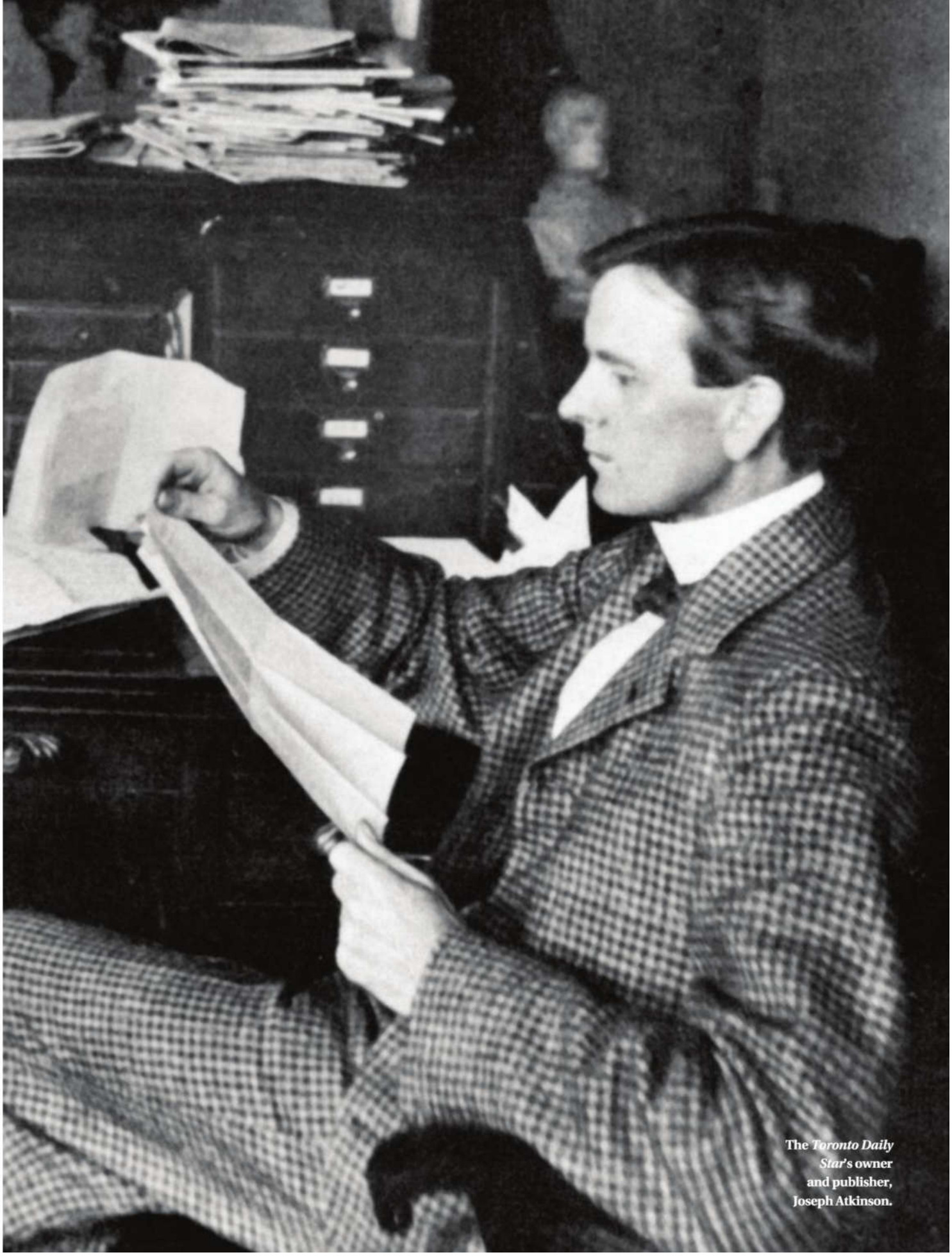
On Sunday afternoon, May 18, 1919, William "Main" Johnson, the *Toronto Daily Star*'s thirty-two-year-old roving reporter, disembarked at Winnipeg's North End Canadian Pacific Railway station. Only hours earlier, the *Star*'s owner and publisher, Joseph Atkinson, had telegraphed Johnson in Sudbury, Ontario, telling him to stop reporting on the Mathers Commission hearings, which was investigating the country's ongoing industrial unrest, and take the first train to Winnipeg. Once there, he was to cover a breaking news story – the general sympathetic strike, which had been sparked by metal and construction workers for union recognition and higher wages. The strike was entering its third day and generating sensational front-page headlines across the nation.

Upon arriving in Winnipeg, Johnson walked the short distance along Higgins Avenue from the train station to the Royal Alexandra Hotel. After registering, he quickly discovered some of the immediate effects of the strike on Winnipeg's finest accommodation. The hotel no longer had a green-capped porter at its Main Street entrance, nor could it provide a barber, shoeshine boy, elevator service, or hot water. When Johnson asked about restaurant service, he was told that the opulent, oak-panelled Selkirk Room had no waiters and was operating as a cafeteria.

Leaving the Royal Alex, Johnson walked south on Main Street to establish his "beat" between the gingerbread-style city hall and the headquarters of the strike committee in the James Avenue Labour Temple. During this time, he learned the full extent of the strike by over thirty thousand workers. Bread, milk, and ice deliveries were only possible by permission of the strike committee. Streetcars remained in their barns, postal and telephone services were non-existent, and the police were on duty by authority of the strike's leaders. Ominously, Brigadier-General H.D.B. Ketchen, commander of Winnipeg's military district, had wired his superiors in Ottawa to let them know that he was calling out a percentage of the active militia following a request for help from the city's beleaguered mayor, Charles Gray.

To further heighten tensions and polarize the city of 180,000, an anti-strike organization, the Citizens' Committee of One Thousand, had been established to counter the

TORONTO STAR ARCHIVES/DETAIL



The *Toronto Daily Star*'s owner and publisher, Joseph Atkinson.

walkout. Representing Winnipeg's business and professional classes, this organization began publishing a daily newspaper, *The Citizen*, to oppose the strike and condemn its leaders. In its first issue, the newspaper's anonymous editors denounced the strike as a "plain, ugly revolution."

Unfortunately for the strikers, in the wake of the 1917 October Revolution in Russia, the Red Scare was gripping North America. The opinion of *The Citizen*, combined with unfounded allegations of radicals masterminding the walkout, quickly caught the attention of the American press and wire services and alarmed the Canadian government. A May 19, 1919 editorial in the influential *New York Times*, headlined "Leninism in Winnipeg", described the strike as a "red plan." The next day, union officials in Winnipeg informed Associated Press of their embarrassment over "fake stories of Soviet government" filed by "irresponsible correspondents."

Nevertheless, a perception of the labour disturbance as an extremist activity had already been created. Soon, almost all of Canada's one hundred and thirty daily newspapers began accepting and shaping the myth of a Bolshevik conspiracy in Winnipeg – a plot whose purpose was to usurp control of constituted authority and replace it with soviet-style government. Through a barrage of news reports, cartoons, and editorials, the commercial press provided the image of a red takeover in Winnipeg and rapidly fashioned public opinion against the strike and its leaders. Five Toronto dailies alone combined to print seventy anti-strike articles and twelve cartoons. While editorial writers, news editors, columnists, and reporters were immediately to blame for this situation, ultimate responsibility rested with the owners and publishers.

William Johnson

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY, MAIN JOHNSON COLLECTION

William Plewman

COURTESY OF THE PLEWMAN FAMILY

***Toronto Daily Star* reporters William "Main" Johnson, top right, and William Plewman, bottom right, were sent to Winnipeg to uncover the true causes of the general sympathetic strike.**

Joseph Atkinson refused to believe the red-scare myth. Unlike any other national Canadian newspaper, he sent two reporters, Main Johnson and William Plewman, to Winnipeg to provide on-the-spot accounts of the strike. He then supported their findings with a series of editorials explaining that the real causes were the legitimate labour demands of frustrated workers.

Atkinson saw the general strike as a classic example of the struggle of the little guy, a cause that elicited not only his personal sympathy, but also the support of his newspaper. Second, while not a member of the labour press, the *Star* was a long-time champion of the trade-union movement.

Atkinson also had a political motive. He was a firm Liberal supporter who wanted William Lyon Mackenzie King, the former prime minister, to return the party to power in Ottawa. If Robert Borden's government mishandled the strike, *Star* editorials could justifiably criticize the Conservative-dominated Unionist coalition. Finally, Atkinson had a financial reason. In 1919, the *Star* was engaged in a fierce circulation war with five other Toronto dailies. He believed that making the strike a major story would sell more papers and thus increase revenue. His gamble was successful – the *Star*'s circulation jumped from 88,000 to 93,000 during the six weeks the strike lasted.

Atkinson assigned Johnson to the story for several reasons: The urbane and ambitious University of Toronto graduate was familiar with the state of industrial unrest in Western Canada and Winnipeg's wartime and post-war labour problems; he was already on assignment in northern Ontario; and he was acquainted with two federal cabinet ministers, acting Minister of Justice and Minister of the Interior Arthur Meighen and Minister of Labour and Senator Gideon Robertson, who were hastily en route from Ottawa to end the dispute.

Johnson's mission was to remain in Winnipeg for several days, evaluate the strike, and spare no expense in sending daily reports. Also assigned to the story was the paper's Winnipeg stringer, John J. Conklin, and Toronto-based staff reporter William Plewman. After Plewman's arrival in Winnipeg, the two *Star* reporters would work together on the strike story until May 27, when Johnson was to leave for Atlantic City, New Jersey, to cover the American Federation of Labour's annual convention.

Johnson soon discovered that this was no ordinary strike. Within two days of the tie-up, Winnipeg's three daily newspapers, as well as the Canadian Press office, were closed and all of the city's two hundred commercial telegraphers abandoned their keys. Moreover, all press releases leaving Winnipeg were subject to the approval of a strikers' censorship board headed by Reverend William Ivens, the charismatic editor of the *Western Labor News*. Ivens knew of the worker-friendly reputation of the *Star* and was willing to offer Johnson a concession. "I think I can arrange for you to wire six hundred words daily to your paper, under your signature," Ivens said, "but with my okay, provided that the copy is read and passed by the strike committee and provided that you wire it also to the *New York Call*, a labour paper in Butte, Montana, and probably a labour paper in Toronto, too."

Johnson declined Ivens's offer. Instead, later that day, he boarded the Soo Line express from the Canadian Pacific Railway station and journeyed 240 kilometres south to Thief River Falls, Minnesota. There, he wired his first of several reports to Toronto, and the next day includ-

CP PHOTO

Thousands of striking workers and their supporters gather outside the Union Bank of Canada building on Main Street on June 21, 1919, during the Winnipeg General Strike.

ed a map of how strike news was reaching *Star* readers. Atkinson was thus assured of receiving uncensored information. Unfortunately for Johnson, and later Plewman, sending the news via Minnesota meant either staying overnight and returning to Winnipeg on the next day's train or hiring a car to undertake the arduous return trip.

I'LL TRADE YOU THIS BED FOR THAT PILE OF STRAW—IT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME
BUT IT ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME!
ANARCHY
AMERICAN BOLSHEVIST
THE REST OF US
DEMOCRAC
SOVIET GOVERNMENT
(SEE-SAW, MARGERY DAW SOLD HER BED TO LIE UPON STRAW)

PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF MANITOBA, STILL IMAGES SECTION

Editorial cartoon by Donald McKee, published in the *Winnipeg Telegram* on June 17, 1919. Many editorial cartoonists across Canada tried to portray the Winnipeg General Strike as a Bolshevist plot.

As the strike continued into its second week, Johnson and Plewman faced more challenges. First, the provincial Liberal government of Tobias Crawford Norris strategically avoided public comment on the strike until May 24. Then, the three local papers began publishing again and joined *The Citizen* in a bitter press war against the strikers and the *Western Labor News*. Editor John Dafoe of the *Manitoba Free Press* fired the first volley. In a prominent front-page editorial on May 22, he complained that his paper had been "the victim of a revolutionary plot and had been suppressed by orders from the dictatorship of the proletariat." Two days later, the *Winnipeg Tribune*'s editor, John Moncrieff, wrote that "irresponsible, lawless, anarchistic agitators" were behind the strike. Ivens retaliated, calling the anti-strike press campaign "vile and pernicious propaganda" and attacking the papers as "the purchased prostitute press."

Despite the press war and logistical obstacles, in eight days Johnson wired eleven front-page stories from Minnesota and collaborated on four others with Conklin for a total of 20,000 words.

Johnson concluded that the strike was essentially a conflict over legitimate labour demands for union recognition and better wages. In his last dispatch on May 26, he wrote: "There are those who believe that if any revolution was attempted in Winnipeg, it was political rather than industrial. In reality, was it? And was it any sort of revolution at all? Or merely a more or less unrealized and unappreciated step in the gradual rise of the worker?"

Meanwhile, Atkinson's early editorials, undoubtedly influenced by Johnson's reports, discounted the Bolshevist plot theory. On May 22, the *Star*'s editorial, "Do Not Be Misled By Names", stated: "The word *Bolshevist* is occasionally used by persons opposed to the Winnipeg strikers, and some of the strikers have used the word Soviet to describe their organization. This is a case where the careless use of a word may lead to mischief and render conciliation more difficult. The demands of the men do not include the recognition of a Soviet or any other form of government challenging the Constituted authorities of Canada."

The next day the *Star* ran two editorials on the strike. In *Do Not Use Black Paint*, the lead editorial declared: "It is becoming more and more clear that the issue is not Bolshevism or any attempt to usurp the government of Canada, but a dispute between employers and employed on the questions of wages, hours, recognition of unions and collective bargaining … nothing is to be gained by exaggerating the evil, painting the situation black, and making Winnipeg look like Petrograd."

William Plewman had always been the odd man out at the *Star*. Unlike the rest of the staff, he was a lifelong Conservative, an Orangeman, and a staunch Methodist who neither drank nor smoked. When Atkinson hired him in 1902, he had told the self-educated young man, "Every reporter and writer we have is a Liberal. You can keep us from becoming too one-sided."

On May 22, the multi-talented, thirty-nine-year-old Plewman arrived in Winnipeg. As the CPR express from Toronto crossed over the Louise Bridge and entered Point Douglas, Plewman adjusted his rimless glasses and nervously peered out the window for signs of the disturbance.

WINNIPEG STRIKE TIMELINE

May to December, 1918 The first major strike of city employees takes place, and talk of a mass general strike begins. Winnipeg's unions decide to hold a meeting to protest the policies of the Conservative federal government.

April 24 to May 13, 1919 Building and metal workers present demands for higher wages and the right to form a union. Their employers reject the demands, which spurs other Winnipeg unions into a solidarity strike vote.

May 15, 1919 The Winnipeg Trades and Labour Council calls a general strike and up to 35,000 workers leave their jobs.

June 5, 1919 Winnipeg Mayor Charles Gray declares it illegal to congregate in crowds on the streets of Winnipeg.

But instead of scenes of disorder, the first thing he glimpsed "was a hundred schoolboys playing baseball." Then he spied the "good old Union Jack flying high over the flour mills of the Ogilvie Milling Company." Minutes later, he spotted the Vulcan Iron Works. Beyond its idle factories he saw the many boarding houses, tenements, and shacks of thousands of immigrants in "New Jerusalem," the city's large foreign quarter.

Plewman remained in Winnipeg until the walkout officially ended on June 26 at 11:00 a.m. During this time he wrote over 100,000 words on the strike – more than any other journalist covering the event.

Plewman interviewed Gideon Robertson, union leaders, employers, Winnipeg's postmaster, and several key strike personalities. He never missed a deadline and risked personal safety by reporting on several dangerous events, including the violent confrontation of "Bloody Saturday" in front of city hall on June 21.

Like Johnson, Plewman did not believe that the strike was a Bolshevik–One Big Union conspiracy. On May 23 he wrote: "The strikers have gone pretty far and they have made some mistakes, but they have not perpetrated Bolshevism … the whole thing is a delusion and a figment of the imagination." Four days later he identified one of the main causes of the strike. "Three weeks ago the Metal Trades workers in contract shops went on strike to enforce collective bargaining, as they have it on the railways. The building trades also struck to enforce the same principle...."

When several thousand returned men confronted Premier Norris in the Manitoba Legislature on May 31, Plewman accompanied them into the main chamber and quoted their leader, ex-sergeant Jack Moore. "All we want is living conditions," Moore said. "Some of our comrades are working seventy-four hours a week for fifty-five dollars a month … We want collective bargaining as they have it in the railways."

On June 17, the authorities acted decisively to break the strike, first with the arrests and incarceration at Stony Mountain prison of several strike leaders, and second by searching the Labour Temple for evidence of Bolshevik material. Following the ransacking of the strikers' headquarters, Plewman interviewed James Woodsworth, who would later become the leader of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation party (CCF). "Will the strike collapse now that the leaders are removed?" asked Plewman. "Not at all," replied Woodsworth emphatically as he stood on the steps of the Labour Temple. "The government can't arrest thirty-five thousand strikers, and if the strike were broken the people still would insist upon handling their affairs and securing the ancient right of Britons." Three days later, when Winnipeg authorities hinted at evidence of a widespread movement afoot to overthrow democratic institutions and substitute for them a soviet form of government, Plewman wrote: "Needless to say, if evidence of this sort can be brought out Canada is in for a genuine sensation."

In late May, Atkinson, the *Star*'s owner, published a series of editorials explaining the need for collective bargaining to end the walkout. He also offered his own formula for industrial stability in "The Government And The Strike", writing: "The eight-hour day should be proclaimed as law; the right of workers to organize unions and the obligation of employers to recognize and negotiate with them should be proclaimed as law; and the obligation of unions in every case to negotiate with employers and report to the State before going on strike should be proclaimed as law."

The *Star*'s final comment on the strike, "Let Us Trust Our Courts", appeared on June 20, a week before the strike collapsed. The editorial asserted, "There are statements of a semi-official character that the federal government has discovered evidence of a Bolshevist conspiracy in Winnipeg… If there is a Bolshevist or revolutionary conspiracy in Canada it ought to be proved in such a way as to leave no room for doubt or controversy."

Michael Dupuis is a retired history teacher living in Victoria. This article is based on his master's thesis *The Response of the Toronto Daily Press to the Winnipeg General Strike*. His collection of interview tapes and letters related to the strike is held at Library and Archives Canada in Ottawa.

Et Cetera

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In *The Beaver*: "Looking for Mrs. Armstrong" by Paula Kelly, June/July 2002. A profile of the impassioned woman at the heart of the Winnipeg General Strike. "1919: The Winnipeg General Strike Reconsidered" by J.M. Bumsted, June/July 1994. Back issues available through TheBeaver.ca.

June 10, 1919 A riot erupts when hired security officers break up a crowd listening to speeches at the corner of Portage and Main.

June 17, 1919 Charged with treasonous conspiracy, strike leaders are arrested and taken to Stony Mountain Penitentiary.

June 21, 1919 On Bloody Saturday, strikers gather outside city hall. The mayor reads the Riot act and orders the RNWMP to make charges through the crowd. Police soon open fire, killing killing one instantly and wounding 30. Many are arrested and some strikers are eventually deported.

June 26, 1919 In the aftermath, the Central Strike Committee decides to end the walkout.

***The Parting of Evangeline and Gabriel*, a painting by John Faed, 1869.**

A Tale of Tatamagouche

The true story behind the beginning of the Acadian expulsion. by Michael Gliserman

Still stands the forest primeval; but under the shade of its branches dwells another race, with other customs and language. Only along the shore of the mournful and misty Atlantic linger a few Acadian peasants. – H.W. Longfellow, 1847

The words of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow echo through time like a church bell tolling across the still countryside. His hauntingly beautiful poem, *Evangeline: A Tale of Acadie,* eulogizing two young lovers separated during the Acadian expulsion from Nova Scotia in 1755, left to posterity what is arguably the most enduring imagery associated with that dark chapter of this continent's colonial past: the period when British forces drove the province's French population from its shores and into exile. But while Longfellow's tale of Evangeline stands as the definitive metaphor for a people's tragedy, the true story behind the deportation – "*Le grand dérangement,*" as it came to be known – is no less compelling.

It's commonly believed that the expulsion began on September 5, 1755, in Grand Pré – a community in the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia – which at the time was the largest Acadian community, with approximately six thousand settlers. In reality, however, the first flame that razed faith and hope to the ground was ignited three weeks earlier and about 120 kilometres to the north of Grand Pré, in the quiet village of Tatamagouche. It was there, in August of 1755, that twelve families toiling in blissful obscurity were uprooted from their homes on orders from the British Crown, which thought that it was finally solving what had become, from its vantage point, the ongoing Acadian problem.

Tatamagouche, so named by the native Mi'kmaq to denote a "meeting of the waters," was a vital supply line for French troops guarding the fort at Louisbourg and a strategic link to the French colonies on Île Royale (Cape Breton) and Île Saint-Jean (Prince Edward Island). Even so, the village had remained largely untouched by the to and fro of the Anglo-French battles for supremacy, flourishing both agriculturally and culturally.

The colonists grew a variety of vegetables; raised sheep, fowl, and cattle; and harvested the seemingly unending food source that was the bountiful ocean. Their lumber had also quickly become a prized commodity, furnishing many a vessel with its proud mast of white pine. By the late 1600s, the Acadians had built dikes to better farm the marshland, and there is evidence to suggest that they were well on their way to smelting copper. They followed their own religion, spoke their own language, and built their own social institutions.

FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHIC CORBIS

MUSEE ACADIEN, UNIVERSITE DE MONCTON

The Dispersal of the Acadians, a painting by the Quebec artist Henri Beau, 1900.

On July 31, 1775, Lawrence sent a letter to Colonel Robert Monckton, the conqueror of Fort Beauséjour, informing him of this new strategy whereupon "they [the French inhabitants of the province] shall be removed out of the country as soon as possible."

The Acadians' desire was to remain essentially neutral in the conflict of colonial powers. While they agreed not to take up arms in support of the French, they repeatedly turned down British requests to swear an unconditional oath of allegiance to King George II of England. British authorities were on the verge of accepting this neutral status, but fate was not predisposed to be lenient.

In June 1755, the British launched an assault on the French-held Fort Beauséjour, near the modern-day border of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. The British captured the fort on June 16, and discovered more than 200 Acadians inside, who claimed they were coerced into helping the French. Faced with this breach in neutrality, the governing Council in Halifax – presided over by Lieutenant-Governor Charles Lawrence – decided on July 28, 1755, that expulsion was the only means to ensure long-term security and a future peace.

On July 31, 1755, Lawrence sent a letter to Colonel Robert Monckton, the conqueror of Fort Beauséjour, informing him of this new strategy whereupon "they [the French inhabitants of the Province] shall be removed out of the country as soon as possible." Lawrence's main concern was to "keep this measure as secret as possible, as well to prevent their attempting to escape, as to carry off their cattle …" In short, it was a case of lose the people, keep the cows. Monckton, in turn, issued sealed orders to his designated point man, to be opened only at that moment when troops were ready to rouse the Acadian population from their beds and herd them along like the livestock they were instructed to safeguard.

The command of Monckton's combined forces fell to Captain Abijah Willard. Willard was a New Englander who had fought at the first siege of Louisbourg in 1745, but by no means was he a dyed-in-the-wool military man. Like those he was about to dispossess, at heart he was a lover of the land. Though Willard knew how to do his duty, he was ill-prepared and ill at ease when, on August 13, he opened his orders and read the task before him. French troops were one thing, but now his specified target was a group of defenceless men and women who had already welcomed him into their homes.

Willard kept a military journal of his actions. His first-hand account details what took place at Tatamagouche in the days to follow. Though terse, the text relates an event with far-reaching ramifications: the setting in motion of a people's forced migration.

On August 14, Willard and his men arrived at a farm bordering a river running east into Bay Verte, and there "halted … att a French mans house Francis Boyes who Liveed Exceeding well." It was clear from the outset that

the English would not lack for hospitality or food on their plates. Their Acadian host sent one of his sons to fetch some "good fatt sheep for the Troops," kindly adding that they could have twenty if they so desired.

At four o'clock that afternoon, they marched into Tatamagouche proper. Willard set up headquarters at the home of Joe Blanchard, whose father, Martin, was one of the earliest settlers in the Cobequid district. He promptly gave orders that all the heads of families living in the area must gather there by nine o'clock the next morning to prove whether they were indeed "true friends to the English." As to his own intentions, Willard was still keeping those tightly under guard. For purposes of his mission, the villagers could not know what the morning would bring.

By the appointed hour on August 15, some twenty Acadian men, with no reason to be overly concerned, were awaiting word at Joe Blanchard's place. Unarmed, unwitting, they were taken prisoner on the spot. English troops secured the area and began a house-to-house search for weapons, while Willard informed his stunned captives that their lands and property were forfeit. They were to be expelled from Nova Scotia and dispersed across continents and oceans, so as not to present any future risk. Their fate had been sealed, and now it was being delivered.

According to Willard, the villagers looked "very sober and dejected." He recorded that one among them asked why they should suffer this punishment, since they had not taken up arms against the British for years, and that the man "swore by the Bible" they never would again. Willard responded that they "was Rebbelios," citing their support of aboriginal people with ties to the French. The edict was firm, and the only question was whether or not the Acadians wanted to go into exile with their families in tow. He granted them two hours to make their decision.

Without any inkling as to what might become of their kith and kin, but presumably in the hope that they might be spared the lot of refugees, the villagers opted to leave their families behind. Willard was much relieved. He did not "want the Trouble of the women and children" added to his travails, which, due to dwindling provisions, included having to settle for beer instead of rum at the end of his busy day.

The burning began on August 16. Taking care to commandeer all the supplies they could carry, Willard and his men set the village ablaze one building at a time. They loaded up on sugar, molasses, wine, and ironware, leaving behind plumes of smoke and swirling ash. When they came upon a storehouse of much sought-after rum, Willard barked out orders to his troops to draw as much of it as they had bottles in their packs. He may have needed this mobile officers' club to salve his conscience, which he acknowledged had been wounded by the "shocking" sight of families being torn apart.

In a matter of hours, Tatamagouche was razed to the ground. In a matter of days, the trail of sorrow and woe begun in its midst blazed its way throughout the region. By the end of 1755, more than six thousand Acadians had been driven from their homes and exiled. As for the women and children left behind in Tatamagouche, there are no records to tell their tale.

In the years following the expulsion, some Acadians returned from exile to Tatamagouche. They were later joined by an influx of immigrants from Europe, including a wave of Scottish settlers who helped rebuild the razed community.

Today, Tatamagouche is a place where history and pride survive. The community of about 700 residents is now a tourism and service centre for northern Nova Scotia and proudly celebrates its rich cultural history.

MUSÉE ACADIEN, UNIVERSITÉ DE MONCTON

***Colonel Winslow in the church of Grande-Pré reading the orders of the Deportation,* an engraving by Sir Frank Dicksee, 1882.**

On the very site where Joe Blanchard's house once stood, where Abijah Willard set up headquarters to launch the Acadian expulsion, now stands the Tatamagouche Centre, a collective of activists dedicated to social justice that celebrates human diversity in all its forms. One could assume that ol' Joe Blanchard would have approved.

Michael Gliserman is a freelance writer currently living in Montreal.

Et Cetera

Acadian Tatamagouche and Fort Franklin by Frank H. Patterson. Truro Print, 1947.

Journal of Abijah Willard edited by Dr. J.C. Webster.

Evangeline by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

In *The Beaver*: "The Amazing Grace of the Acadians" by André Pelchat, June/July 2005. How the Acadians survived exile and tumult is a tribute to fortitude and a marvel of history. "The Siege of Fort Beauséjour" by Gwyneth Hoyle, June/July 2002. In 1755, a French stronghold falls and the expulsion of the Acadians begins. Back issues available through TheBeaver.ca.

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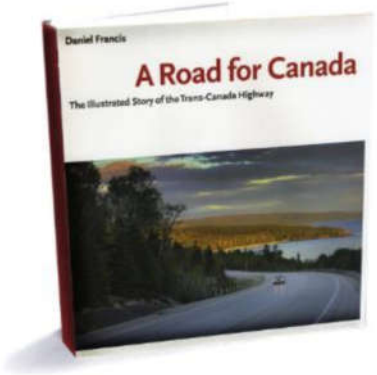
Reviews



LIFE IS A HIGHWAY

A Road for Canada: The Illustrated Story of the Trans-Canada Highway
By Daniel Francis
Stanton Atkins & Dosil, North Vancouver, 2006
192 pp., illus., $39.95 hardcover

A Road for Canada tells the long and complex story of the Trans-Canada Highway and how it came to be. It has been lavishly illustrated with historical black-and-white photographs, modern colour photographs, and a plethora of reproductions of licence plates, political cartoons, newspaper clippings, postage stamps, and road maps that help tell the epic tale of Canada's "other national dream." The book strives to show how the Trans-Canada Highway – after all the political and geographical hurdles that were overcome to build it – has become not so much a symbol as a metaphor. Writes author Daniel Francis: "Like the highway, Canada is in a constant state of becoming."

The book offers a vivid historical sketch by Francis, whose style is that of a popular historian. The sources section is only two pages long, but one can assume *A Road for Canada* was never intended to be a scholarly work. Francis is a storyteller, and his talent is bringing alive the many characters and interesting events that are inextricably linked to the highway; juicy details add depth and are reminiscent of Pierre Berton's writing style.

For example, Francis quips at one point about the very first made-in-Canada motor vehicle – built in 1867 by Henry Seth Taylor of Quebec – that crashed because its maker didn't think brakes were essential. There's the story about the original talking goose in Wawa, Ontario, and the UFO landing pad that was constructed in St. Paul, Alberta, so that aliens would feel welcome during Canada's centennial celebrations. There are also many revealing tidbits about political posturing over the Trans-Canada Highway, including one incident where then-British Columbia premier Bill Bennett (who felt perpetually snubbed by the federal government) removed all identifying road signs. At a cost of $20,000, Bennett had the highway re-signed as British Columbia No. 1.

The book progresses logically from the dawn of the automobile age – and the first gathering of motor enthusiasts in 1912 to

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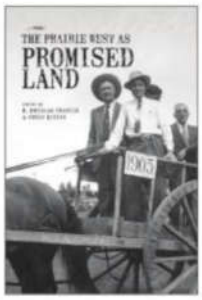

THE PRAIRIE WEST AS PROMISED LAND

Edited by R. Douglas Francis and Chris Kitzan

Prairie historians explore the early 20th century perception of the Canadian West as a place of unbridled prosperity and opportunity.

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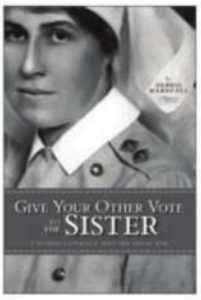

GIVE YOUR OTHER VOTE TO THE SISTER: A WOMAN'S JOURNEY INTO THE GREAT WAR

by Debbie Marshall

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by Cliff White and E.J. (Ted) Hart

Dramatic side-by-side comparative images of original historical photographs with new shots of the same locales illustrating changes to the Rockies' landscape over time.

ISBN 978-1-55238-237-0
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lobby for a national highway – to modern heroes such as Terry Fox and Rick Hansen, who have used the Trans-Canada Highway to rally Canadians to their causes. Some of the liveliest sections tell the stories of early automobile pioneers and the many trials and tribulations they encountered on their cross-country adventures. The first attempt to motor across Canada was undertaken in 1912 by a British journalist named Thomas Wilby and his mechanic and chauffeur, Jack Haney. The two apparently came to loathe each other, which resulted in Haney's name being omitted completely from Wilby's book, *A Motor Tour Through Canada*.

A Road for Canada is even part memoir. Francis first travelled the Trans-Canada Highway during his honeymoon in 1971. He writes: "We had no idea that the road we were travelling was not yet a decade old. I assumed it had always been there." One attempt to sleep in the couple's Volkswagen van in northern Ontario resulted in them fending off bloodthirsty mosquitoes with rolled-up magazines all night long. His point becomes clear: Travelling the Trans-Canada Highway can still be an adventure, and in some ways has become a rite of passage for Canadians.

The only criticism of the book is not really a criticism at all, but rather an observation. There were so many details contained in the illustration and photo captions that jumping back and forth between these and the main text disrupts the narrative flow that Francis so craftily weaves. To savour the details, page through the book and read the captions first, which will then allow you to better enjoy the main text without interruption.

Although there have been plenty of books written about the Trans-Canada Highway, the thoughtful juxtaposition of storytelling, historical context, maps, photos, and illustrations helps this work stand out. It is recommended it to anyone wanting to learn about – or relive – one of the most daunting projects Canada has undertaken.

Reviewed by **Matt Jackson**, who became well acquainted with the Trans-Canada Highway during a lengthy hitchhiking trip. His book, *The Canada Chronicles: A Four-Year Hitchhiking Odyssey*, won the 2004 IPPY award for best North American travel memoir.

MORE BOOKS

Great Questions of Canada
Edited by Rudyard Griffiths
Key Porter Books, Toronto, 2007
216 pp., $22.95 paperback

Originally released in 1999 as a project of the Dominion Institute, *Great Questions of Canada* returns with additional contributions from four more writers on two new topics. Authors and historians such as Neil Bissoondath, Charlotte Gray, Peter C. Newman, and Jack Granatstein are paired off

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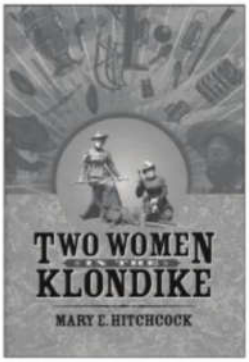
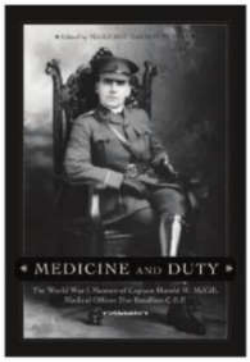


TWO WOMEN IN THE KLONDIKE
by Mary E. Hitchcock,
Introduction by Terrence Cole

Copublished with The University of Alaska Press
b&w photographs, map, index

EAN 978-1-55238-235-6
$24.95



MEDICINE AND DUTY:
THE WORLD WAR I MEMOIR OF CAPTAIN HAROLD W. MCGILL, MEDICAL OFFICER 31ST BATALLION C.E.F.
Edited by Marjorie Barron Norris
index, sidebars, notes

EAN 978-1-55238-193-9
$39.95

MISSING PIECES: MY LIFE AS A CHILD SURVIVOR OF THE HOLOCAUST
by Olga Verrall

b&w photographs throughout

EAN 978-1-55238-220-2
$24.95

to tackle great questions such as: Does history matter? Are we a nation of institutions or ideas? When Canada speaks, does the world listen? Each writer produces an essay, then responds to their topic partner in a second shorter piece.

In keeping with Canada's reputation, the exchanges are polite, though there is the occasional spirited tussle that keeps the debate exciting. There are also digressions from the main topic – which at times prove as interesting, if not more so. But generally, this is an exchange of ideas, with the reader reaping the benefits of keen insight and analysis.

Readers can extend their experience by visiting the companion website ‹greatquestions.com›, which offers author bios, video clips of debates, and tools for teachers. Students twenty-one or younger who are inspired to contribute their own opinions can do so through the Dominion Institute's essay competition, with an annual prize of $2,000. — **Richard F. J. Wood**

Vimy Ridge: A Canadian Reassessment
Edited by Geoffrey Hayes, Andrew Iarocci, and Mike Bechthold
Wilfrid Laurier University Press, Waterloo, Ontario, 2007
358 pp., illus., $38.95 hardcover

The Vimy Ridge battle of World War I was a touchstone in the development of Canadian nationhood, but not a major military achievement. So argues history professor Gary Sheffield in the opening chapter of this collection of 18 essays published on the 90th anniversary of the famous 1917 battle. While the Canadian Corps achieved success on the ridge, where the British and French had earlier failed, it came at a terrible cost – 10,602 casualties, including 3,598 dead.

Frequently overlooked is the fact that the British played a part in the victory, starting at the top with Lieutenant-General Sir Julian Byng, the English commander of the corps and Canada's future governor general. British artillery, tactics and supply lines also had a significant supporting role.

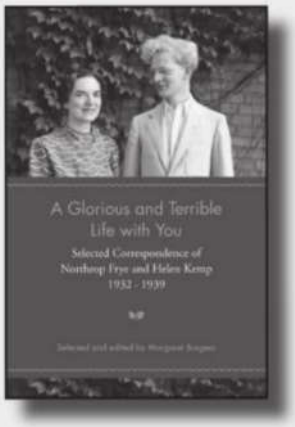
The book explains that Vimy Ridge was only a small breakthrough in the larger Battle of Arras. But Canadians displayed outstanding leadership, discipline and courage and were awarded four Victoria Crosses for their bravery. The authors, mostly Canadian military scholars, put the battle in its historical context and hint that what is good for nation-building is not necessarily reality – confirming once again that the first casualty in war is often the truth.

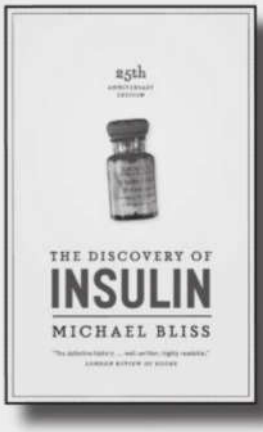
Vimy Ridge: A Canadian Reassessment includes superb references, a wide selection of photographs (unfortunately, many images are too small to be fully appreciated), and a fascinating account of Hitler's visit to Canada's famous Vimy Memorial in 1940 to help quell rumours that the Germans had destroyed the monument during the Nazi attack on France. — **Gavin Murphy**

A Glorious and Terrible Life with You
Selected Correspondence of Northrop Frye and Helen Kemp 1932–1939
Selected and edited by Margaret Burgess

Burgess presents an intimate and highly revealing correspondence between Frye and his first wife Helen Kemp. Their correspondence paints a vivid picture of the personalities and the writing style of the two protagonists and of the times in which it was written.

Paper 9780802094766 / $35.00





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Christopher Moore

Classified Canada

When it comes to the nation's intelligence and security history, much of our past is considered a state secret – and that's a shame.

Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent, far left, and Lester B. Pearson, far right, pose with Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Anthony Eden on their arrival at Rockcliffe Airport, Ottawa, on June 29, 1954. During his early career in External Affairs, Pearson played a key role in Canadian security and intelligence matters.

CP PHOTOS

"Turn on your television!" Wesley Wark learned of the World Trade Centre attacks from a public-relations officer at the University of Toronto. That morning the university was being flooded with media requests for expert analysts, and Wark, who is a historian of security and intelligence studies, was in hot demand.

For several months after September 11, 2001, Wark found media interviews occupied him "seven days a week." Demand has slowed a little since then. Still, the war in Afghanistan, the invasion of Iraq, and our constant twenty-first-century concern with terrorism mean there is public interest in secret intelligence and counter-terrorism. I thought it was time to look into Canada's history of security and intelligence and what we actually get from it.

"Is there a particularly Canadian history of secret intelligence?" I asked Wark. He assured me we have one of the longest among modern nations.

During the American Civil War, pre-Confederation Canadian governments took steps to ensure that neither Union nor Confederate agents could provoke a breach of Canadian neutrality. A little later, a combination of Canadian espionage and Fenian ineptitude meant "Fenian planning was very nearly an open book for the Canadian security forces."

In the Second World War, Canada did significant work in signals intelligence, tracking German, Japanese and Vichy French communications through the shadowy "Examination Unit." One of the leading figures in that story was Lester Pearson – a future prime minister – who had become External Affairs' man on intelligence and security matters.

Canada later used its wartime contributions to lobby for a place at the table alongside its intelligence allies.

"Really," Wark says, "it was a case of Canadian chutzpah – of Canadians in the post-war era bargaining the country into the most secret club in the world."

Wark believes that, at heart, security and intelligence history is really about the history of ideas. It's a lesson he learned at Cambridge University in the 1970s, when he went there from his Alberta home to study "traditional diplomatic history." Just at that time, security and intelligence studies were being invented as a serious field of academic history. Britain had begun to open its intelligence archives and Cambridge scholars (often intelligence veterans themselves) were publishing a multi-volume official history of Secret Intelligence in the Second World War. Wark was hooked.

Returning to Canada, he made the same discovery here that his mentors had made in Britain. A nation's security and intelligence processes, he argues, are a window into its idea of the world, a pointer to its deepest fears. The way Canada has practiced intelligence since the Second World War has both mirrored and shaped its more public diplomacy. International alliances, the search for middle-power influence, the effort to stay at the big table – "all this intelligence history really does explore how Canada has perceived itself and its place in the world, in our global alliances."

Yet intelligence history is not a field that Canada has encouraged. The public is interested, but Wark finds Canadian security archives are locked away much more completely than their Britain and American equivalents.

One of Wark's principal works has been an official history of Canadian intelligence activities from the 1940s until about 1970. He was given access to the historical archives of Canadian intelligence, and he thinks he has written a substantial history, one that follows Canadian intelligence from the darkest days of the Second World War through the travails of the Cold War. It sounds fascinating – the rich product of almost thirty years of scholarly engagement focused on otherwise unexamined source materials.

Problem is, you can't read it. The book is classified, and so are all the sources it draws on ("a treasure trove," Wark says). Officials at the Staff Intelligence Unit of the Privy Council Office in Ottawa told me some of the work has now been cleared through an Access to Information request and can be made available. But the book itself remains secret. Will the archives of mid-twentieth Century Canadian intelligence be opened and the book published as an official history? It's uncertain at best.

It's not just official secrecy that's complicating Canadian security and intelligence history. Diplomatic/military/ political history is deeply unfashionable in the scholarly community. Martin Rudman, who retired in June from Carleton University's Canadian Centre of Intelligence and Security Studies, reports that he is one of several scholars in the field who have not been replaced. "Canadians students of intelligence have to go overseas to study, and then there are no academic positions for them to return to."

Does it matter?

Reg Whitaker is retired from York University but remains involved in security studies as a consultant to both the O'Connor Commission on the detention of Maher Arar and the Major Inquiry into the Air India murders. He cheered last winter when Parliament refused to renew the preventive-arrest and investigative-powers clauses of the Anti-Terrorism Act, which were given a five-year sunset clause when first passed in 2001. Still, "it was a pretty awful debate," he says, with the two sides mostly trading charges of disloyalty on one hand and McCarthyism on the other. Few parliamentarians displayed much insight into the principles involved.

That's one reason why we need greater access to Canada's security and intelligence records, as well as more historians studying the subject. We might have a better-informed public if citizens could compare the anti-terrorist fervor of recent years against histories of, say, the anti-communist security activities of the early 1950s.

Christopher Moore comments in every issue of *The Beaver*.

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Getaway

Artists take part in event at historic Hamilton Place during annual Cobblestone Festival in Paris, Ontario.

COBBLESTONE FESTIVAL

Cobblestone Capital

Nina Chapple travels to Paris, Ontario, to explore the stone marvels created when British tradition teamed up with Yankee ingenuity in the wilds of Upper Canada.

Vermont pioneer Hiram Capron came to Ontario in 1822 to run the Normandale Furnace on the shores of Lake Erie. The next year, Capron happened upon the forks where the Grand River joins with the Nith. He wrote: "I gazed spellbound upon the beautiful valley, then in its natural state of beauty and rugged grandeur, before the axe had robbed it of its stately oaks and wide-spreading elms. And before mounting my horse, I made up my mind to own this lovely vale."

By 1829, Capron had sold the ironworks and purchased 404 hectares of this picturesque site. He built a grist mill and laid out lots, which he offered free to new settlers. Capron named the place Paris, after plaster of Paris, which was made from gypsum found in local hillsides. The site attracted settlers from the nearby western New York frontier, particularly the greater Rochester area. It was there that the American re-invention of a vernacular masonry technique from England quickly gained widespread popularity: cobblestone construction.

Charles Dickson, who had come to Paris in 1835, wrote his mother in Scotland about the need for an Anglican Church in Paris. The letter was passed on from her rector in Edinburgh to a visiting clergyman, Archdeacon Ardfast of Ireland, who in turn raised money from his own congregation. Dickson's mother then appealed to the Duchess of Leeds, who also donated cash – all on the condition that the church be constructed of stone. The problem was Paris did not have a good, local building stone.

Then, in 1838, Levi Boughton arrived. A mason from Normandale, New York, he was skilled in this latest masonry method and quickly solved the Anglicans' dilemma by erecting St. James Anglican Church in cobblestone. It was Paris' first cobblestone structure.

In a pioneer village of modest log and plaster buildings, cobblestone architecture carried all the prestige of formal masonry. The stones – shaped like a sweet potato and smoothed by water or glacial action – were free for the gathering from rivers, hillsides, and farmlands. Each structure was built by hand, taking two-to-five years to complete, and no two were alike. Over the next two decades, twelve houses (one since lost) and another church were built in cobblestone, almost all constructed or supervised by Boughton.

Cobblestone work involved many hands: fourteen thousand or more cobbles might be needed for each building. It is said these local stones were often collected by children, future homeowners, or parishioners and hauled to the building site; the women, perhaps at a bee, would size them by using a special board with

View of the business section of Paris, Ontario, in 1904.

PARIS MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

different-sized holes, then match them by colour. Boughton, his trainees, or even the owners themselves would lay up the cobbles into a thick mortar, as much as six inches deep, commonly tying longer stones into the rubble wall behind. Only about four even courses could be completed in a day to allow the mortar to set.

A close look at these walls reveals such a high level of skill that it becomes a form of folk art: the cobbles are relatively small, matched in size and frequently in colour. They were often laid painstakingly at an angle, resulting in an exquisite, shimmering texture as sunlight glances across their surface.

Upper Town, Paris' earliest settlement, contains several of these hidden treasures within walking distance of St. James Church. Across the street is Dr. Sowden's dispensary and home, featuring beautifully executed masonry, particularly where the wall curves gracefully around the corner entrance. A cobblestone wall and smokehouse are part of the columned Wolverton home on the riverside of St. James. One block west and up the hill on Church Street stands the gracious cobblestone house where, in 1870, Alexander Graham Bell stayed upon his arrival from Scotland; several blocks south, master mason Boughton built his own charming cottage at 19 Queen Street.

At Inksater's store, on William Street, a plaque pays tribute to an experiment that few at the time recognized for its significance. In his own words, Alexander Graham Bell later described the event:

> "*It was really a very historical occasion, the tenth of August, 1876. The transmitting instrument was placed in Brantford, the receiving instrument in Paris, and the batteries used were in Toronto, so that made a pretty long circuit. I was in Paris at the receiving end listening… there were various persons present who spoke and sang into the transmitting instrument, and sounds were received in Paris. These were the first experiments in the world in which sounds were received at a distance of many miles.*"

Paris's main street (Grand River Street) runs northwards down a steep hill and across the Nith River to Lower Town, where the commercial core evolved. Today it's a heritage streetscape that still offers an array of attractive specialty shops.

Grand River Street North runs up the opposite hill to the jewel of Paris's heritage homes – Hamilton Place, a high-styled Greek Revival mansion with a portico of piers across the front. In an attractive setting overlooking the Grand River, the 1844 house – built by entrepreneur Norman Hamilton – is made all the more stunning by its subtly textured cobblestone walls. Here, building, gardens, and craftsmanship unite into a unique cultural heritage landscape that hosts the annual Cobblestone Festival.

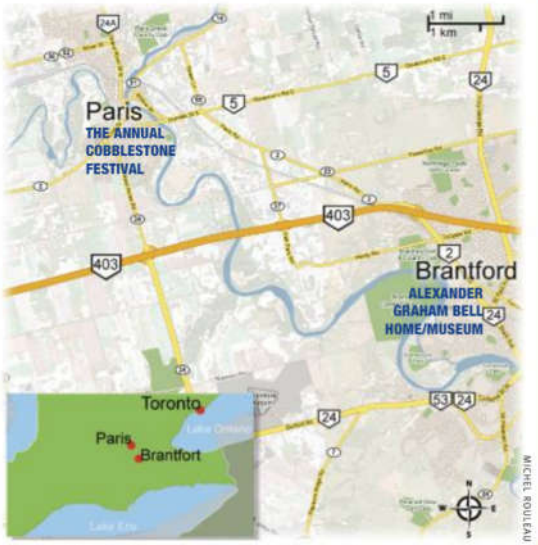
Continuing five kilometres out of town on Grand River Street North (Highway 24A), you come to Paris Plains Road, where a right turn leads to a surprising architectural treasure – the diminutive Paris Plains Church. Built in 1845 by volunteers under Boughton's supervision, this picturesque country church was rescued by descendants of the original parishioners in 1948 and designated a National Historic Site.

The cobblestone era in Paris peaked in the 1850s with the building of four remarkable houses on farmlands nearby. By the 1860s, however, brick became both more affordable and more available. At the same time, labour costs rose sharply, making the meticulous, time-consuming work of cobblestone construction no longer economically feasible.

Nina Chapple works in the field of heritage planning and conservation and is the author of *A Heritage of Stone*.

If you go...

Paris is located between Toronto and London, about one hour from each. By car, it can be reached from Highway 401 via the Ayr exit to Ayr and continuing south on the Swan/Ayr Road until Keg Lane Road, turn left, then right (south) at Grand River Street North (24A); or from the 403 by taking the Rest Acres Road (Brant 24) exit, proceeding north to Highway 2 and turning right into town. A historic plaque at the east entrance identifies Paris as the Cobblestone Capital of Canada.



The Paris Historical Society and Museum
15 Curtis Avenue North
Paris, Ontario N3L 3W1
T: (519) 442-9295
W: ParisHistorical Society.com

Annual Cobblestone Festival
(August 9-19)
P.O. Box 153
Paris, Ontario N3L 3E7
T: (519) 442-1890
W: Cobblestone Festival.ca

Alexander Graham Bell home/museum
94 Tutela Heights Road
Brantford, Ontario
N3T 1A1
T: (519) 756-6220
W: BellHomestead.on.ca

Your Story

My Dearest Clara

A series of letters from Sheldon Wells to his wife Clara trace the fortune seeker's misadventures in the western wilderness. by Lauren Peever

IMAGE COURTESY OF LAUREN PEEVER

A photo of the CPR section gang taken at Cascade, British Columbia. Sheldon Wells is front and centre in the black coat, leaning on his left leg.

Money was scarce for my grandfather, Sheldon Wells, and his brother, Forrest. Stonemasons by trade, there were few demands for their work. Farming in Brome County, in Quebec's eastern townships, was unstable – providing barely enough to live on. So, when reports drifted in of gold discovered in the Yukon, it sparked immediate interest. Accordingly, the brothers sold their Montreal-area granite business and joined thousands of men leaving home, determining that it would be worth the sacrifice if they returned home rich.

In March 1898, with the blessing of their families, the Wells brothers set off, travelling by train from Quebec to Edmonton. Sheldon and Forrest joined five other men heading north to try to find their fortune. Their long, arduous journey – covering hundreds of kilometres of Canadian wilderness – took 92 days to complete.

Sheldon's letters to his wife, Clara, became journals of his adventures. In addition to Clara, the 48-year-old Sheldon left behind four daughters: Mary; Ruth; Agnes; and the eldest, Elsie (age ten), who would become my grandmother. All of them were thrilled when they received one of Sheldon's letters.

Here, in his own words, are excerpts from Sheldon's letters:

Fort Providence, Northwest Territories (June 29, 1898)

Dear Clara and my darling little babies,

I am very glad to tell you that we are safe through Great Slave Lake [Northwest Territories]. I thought a great many times yesterday of the prayers that were offered up by my darling wife and children as I was steering the boat

through the last thirty miles of Slave Lake. There was no place we could land in thirty miles. The waves were terrible but we got through safe. Thank God. We got into the mouth of the Mackenzie River last night at twelve. Now we have passed all the bad places and will soon be in the land of gold. Dear Clara, keep up your courage. God bless you.

Fort Providence
(no date)
It takes quite a little sum to get there with supplies enough to last a year and a half. We are going to have enough to last nearly two years. Won't that be nice, dear Clara, for me to bring home enough [money] for you and the dear little children to live on the rest of your lives? Well, we must hope for the best.

Fort Providence
(no date)
We will be [at Fort] Liard, [in southwest Northwest Territories], in two days. Have courage, dear Clara. We are surely going to succeed. Two of us will stay upon the boat and the rest will sleep. There is a swift current and we shall float all night. We can see as well as in daytime. Oh, if I could only see you and the dear children, but I must not fret.

Fort Liard
(August 1, 1898)
Don't worry. We are well and fat as pigs and fine prospects ahead. We have passed one place [that would be good to mine] … it would not be difficult to make ten dollars per day. That sounded pretty good to us, but we want to get up nearer the mountains where the gold is coarser ... There is a lump in my throat every time I go to write to you.

Devil's Portage, Northwest Territories
(September 15, 1898)
We came in the wrong way. We can go out from here to navigation in less than a month, so you see when we make our little stake it won't take long to get out. Kiss my dear little girls for me. Take care, dear Clara...

Coming in *The Beaver* October • November

The Fog Bowl
It was an age when men worked nine-to-five at the office — and then found themselves second-and-five on the gridiron. On the eve of the 95th Grey Cup, we look at the 1962 title tilt, one of the most bizarre in CFL history.
BY DYLAN G. DYLAN

Sir John A's Lost Weekend
With the Pacific Scandal brewing and opposition members howling, Canada's first prime minister mysteriously vanishes.
BY PETER BLACK

Utopia Now!
Scientists and technicians promised Canadians a life of ordered bliss. The catch? They'd have to hand control over to the technocrats.
BY RAY ARGYLE

That was the last letter Clara received for almost a year. In the interim, the brothers parted ways with the group of men they had been traveling with and set out west of Fort Liard. Forrest, however, came down with scurvy, forcing the brothers to hole up there for the winter. When Sheldon finally wrote another letter home, the news was not good.

Glenora, British Columbia
(August 14, 1899)
Dear Clara,
Here I am at Glenora on my way out of this terrible country. No doubt you have heard of the horrors of the Edmonton Trail. Well, I have seen it in its worst form. Some men froze. Some drowned. Some starved. Others went insane, but thank God, my health was never better – strange as it may seem. I am a sounder man than I was when I left home. Poor Forrest has had a hard time of it.

I have just come in over the trail eighty-four miles, a man from California with me. Made it in a little over four days. Forrest will be out in a few days with the St. B. Pack train. My God! What a time we have had. I am in such a hurry to get to Vancouver. They are advertising for stonecutters … I hope the dear children are all well … Dear Clara, take care of yourself. I do want to see you so…

Sheldon

Sheldon took the job advertised in Vancouver and became the mason foreman for the Canadian Pacific Railway. In December 1903, his family moved from Quebec to Vancouver to be closer to his work in the Kootenays.

Unfortunately, Sheldon's story was to end in tragedy. In 1911, Sheldon was severely injured by falling rock. He was found dead in his bunk on the morning of November 14, 1911, at Cascade, British Columbia – his dreams of striking it rich in the gold rush unfulfilled.

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Founded in 1994 to popularize Canadian history, the work of Canada's National History Society includes **The Beaver, Kayak,** the **Governor General's Awards for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History** to honour the country's best history teachers, and the **Pierre Berton Award** to recognize those who have brought history to a wider audience.

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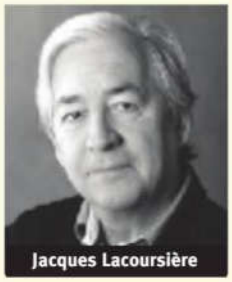
The Beaver was founded in 1920 by the Hudson's Bay Company, whose commitment to the History Society and its programs continues today through the ***Hudson's Bay Company History Foundation.***

Annual General Meeting Held in Winnipeg

Mark Starowicz, who retires from the Board this year, is honoured by current chair, J. Douglas Barrington, at the History Society's annual dinner at the St. Charles Golf and Country Club in Winnipeg.

DEBORAH MORRISON

Canada's National History Society is pleased to announce the following appointments to the Board of Directors following our annual meeting held June 15, 2007 in Winnipeg



Jacques Lacoursière

Jacques Lacoursière, C.M., C.Q. Beauport, Quebec

Popular historian, broadcaster and author of more than 14 books about the history of Quebec in Canada, Mr. Lacoursière has also been very involved in history education and curriculum development in the province of Quebec.

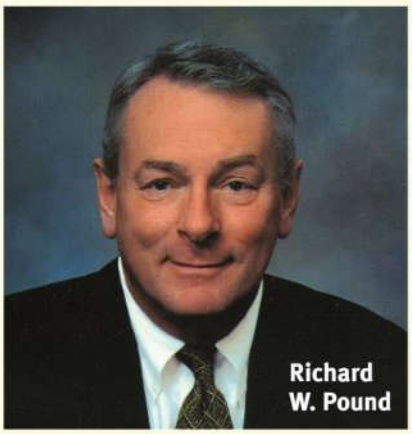
His many achievements include authoring a four volume history of Quebec *L'Histoire Populaire du Québec,* hosting the critically acclaimed 1996 historical television series *Épopée en Amérique* and his editorship of *Nos Racines,* a popular Quebec history magazine no longer in production.

He was the 1994 recipient of the Pierre Berton Award, and has been an advisory council member of Historica since 1999. Recently he accepted the role of guest editor of our Quebec 400th anniversary issue of *The Beaver* to be published in Feb/March 2008.

Richard W. Pound, O.C, O.Q, Q.C., FCA
Montreal, Quebec

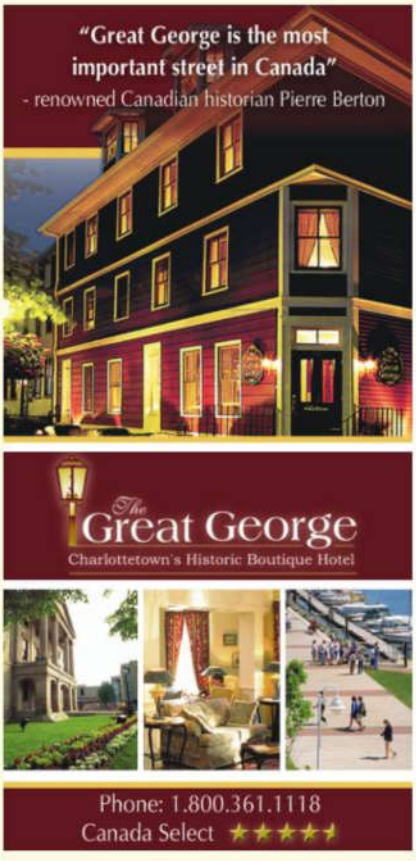
Mr. Pound is a partner of the Canadian law firm Stikeman Elliott (Chair of the firm's Tax Section), and is also the chairman of the World Anti-Doping Agency based in Montreal. He is a former vice-president of the International Olympic Committee and one of Canada's best know Olympians, but few know of his deep passion for Canadian history.

He is the general editor of *Canadian Facts and Dates*, as well as the author of three non-fiction historical books: *Five Rings Over Korea: The Secret Negotiations Behind the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul*; a corporate history of his law firm *Stikeman Elliott;* and *Chief Justice W.R. Jackett: By the Law of the Land*, a biography of the first Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Canada.


Richard W. Pound

His other professional activities and associations are varied and currently include: Chancellor of McGill University, Honorary Consul General of Norway in Montreal. Mr. Pound has also served as a member of the History Society's Advisory Council for the past five years.

At the annual meeting, lifetime memberships were presented to René Durocher, Eric Jackman, and Mark Starowicz, in recognition of their voluntary service to the History Society over the past six years.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Pierre Berton Award Finalists Announced

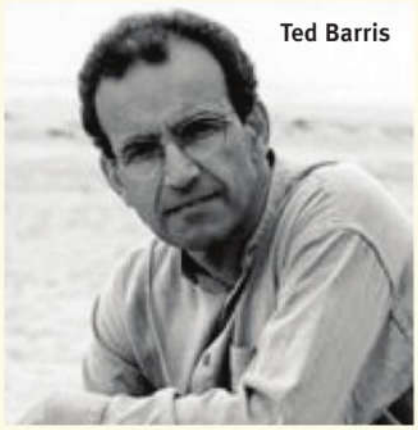
After careful deliberation, the Pierre Berton Award Selection Committee has confirmed five finalists for the 2007 Pierre Berton Award in an announcement on June 25, 2007. This year's nominees reflect the growing impact of new media in telling Canada's stories. Since Pierre Berton too was a master of multimedia, building solid programming and content in radio and television as well as in print, we think he'd approve of the impressive range and diversity of this year's nominees:

CBC Digital Archives

"One of the most comprehensive Canadian history collections freely available online, the CBC Digital archives features an extremely well-catalogued inventory of over 10,000 different multi-media entries and an integrated set of educational resources for classroom use. Knowing that younger people are increasingly looking to the Internet for their sources and information, this marks an incredible investment for future generations of Canadians." The archives are found online at ‹archives.cbc.ca›.

Ted Barris

"*Victory at Vimy*, released earlier this year, is the 15th book produced by the Toronto-born writer. Ted Barris stands alone for his ability to bring you to the frontlines of Canada's military past with *Juno: Canadians at D-Day*; and *Days of Victory; Behind the Glory*. Barris impressed us with the extensive range of history subjects he has written about over the years including Canadian music, prairie steamboats, curling, rodeo riding, and the Edmonton Oilers."


Ted Barris

Great Unsolved Mysteries in Canadian History

"An imaginative website that will intrigue a much wider audience than the secondary students for which it's principally designed. ‹CanadianMysteries.ca› provides an opportunity for anyone to experience how historical documents are used, interpreted and sometimes misinterpreted to create the history we think we know. The website will change people's perceptions of what historians really do and why it matters."

Brian McKenna

"His most recent effort, *The Great War Project* demonstrated that he has lost none of

his edge for innovative uses of the television medium that captivate audiences. McKenna deserves this recognition for the sheer volume of quality productions he's realized. He's been at this for over 30 years long before anyone else thought you could tell compelling Canadian history stories on television."

Mark Zuehlke

"He has produced some of the best-written popular histories about the Canadian experience in World War II. Thoroughly researched and well-crafted, Zuehlke is carving a reputation as one of this generation's pre-eminent military historians. In addition to several works about World War II, including *Juno Beach* and *Holding Juno*, Zuehlke has written about the War of 1812, Canadian volunteers in the Spanish Civil War, as well as edited *The Canadian Military Atlas*."

For more information and weblinks to explore the work of this year's finalists log onto ‹historysociety.ca› and click through to the Pierre Berton Award section. We invite you to use the website to share your comments about this year's nominees. The winner of the Pierre Berton Award will be announced later this fall.

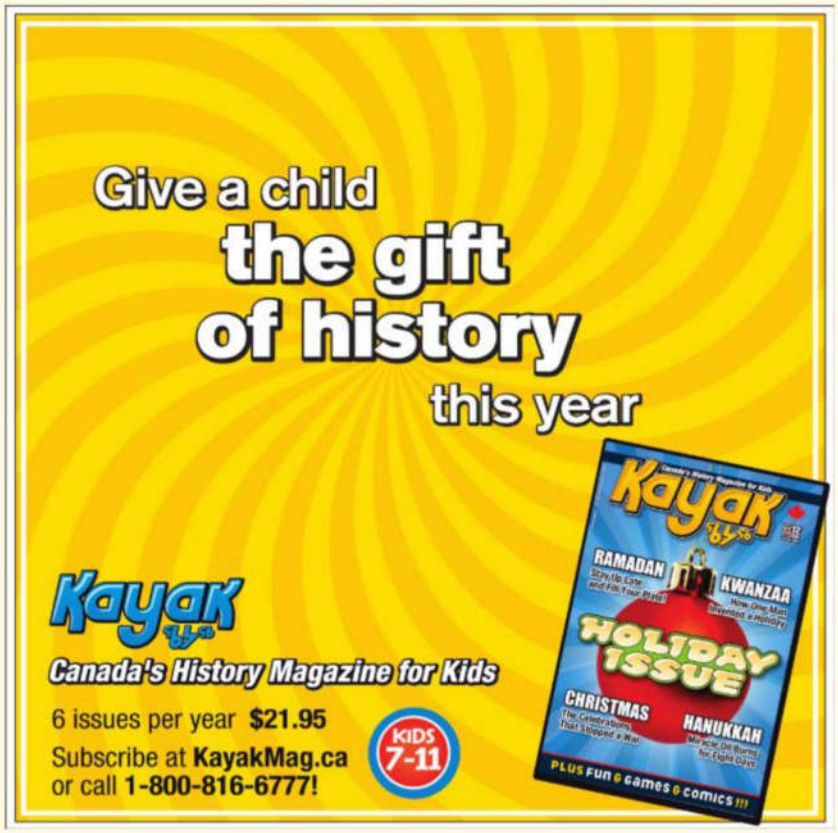
About this issue

With this issue, Editor Mark Reid leads a new editorial team of Nelle Oosterom, Phil Koch and Christopher Webb into uncharted territory for *The Beaver*. While the "Worst Canadians" feature package is running in this issue, it was conceptualised and commissioned months ago. We knew then from the responses of some writers who declined to contribute that the topic wouldn't sit well with everyone. But we also knew the topic was sure to spark conversations about the people and events that shaped our past. We all inherit our history – our new editor and this survey are no exception. This has been an incredibly challenging first issue for Mark and his team, but I hope you will share my belief that they have proven that *The Beaver* still best represents our storied history – rodents, roses and all.

Canadian Newsstand Awards for *The Beaver*

Art director Michel Groleau received *The Beaver*'s first ever National Newsstand Award at the Old Mill Inn, Toronto on June 5th. The award-winning cover was last December/January's Viking issue, and included a special bonus CD sampler of our FurTradeStories.ca website. The issue sold over 3,600 copies, the highest number of single copy sales *The Beaver* has had in its history.

Since October 2005, *The Beaver*'s attention to building its presence on Canadian newsstands has not only helped to raise awareness of the magazine but has begun to convert into subscription sales. The newsstand award included a prize worth $3,500 in promotional placements provided for by HDS retail distributors. We've used those credits with this issue, setting a new record for over 8,200 in total volume of newsstand copies of *The Beaver* being distributed.



Album

Garnet M. (Peggy) Harris, who submitted this photograph, is the granddaughter of Garnet Moffat Mills. She lives in Penticton, British Columbia.

Bathing beauties

It was Greer's Beach in 1897 when this photograph was taken; today it's Kitsilano, one of Vancouver's trendiest areas. The beach itself remains largely the same, but bathing costumes today have certainly undergone a sea change. Garnet Moffat Mills is at the centre, with her sister Caroline Maude, centre left, and three friends. At the time of the photo, the Mills sisters had lived in Vancouver for ten years, having arrived by train with their father Richard Oliver Mills shortly after the city was devastated by a great fire that saw fewer than a dozen buildings survive. The vagaries of economics brought the Mills family from Ontario to Emerson, Manitoba, in 1880, which was at the time a contender for the Canadian Pacific Railway line. The family left for Vancouver after the rail line went to Winnipeg instead. After the 1910 depression, Garnet and her carpenter husband Thomas Ross Mackay moved to Ocean Falls, a remote community more than 480 kilometres north of Vancouver. They later left for Prince Rupert, British Columbia, where the family flourished. They've been a West Coast family ever since.

Do you have an old photograph that captures a moment, important or ordinary, in Canada's history? If you would like to submit it for possible publication, have it copied (please don't send priceless originals) and mail it to Album, c/o *The Beaver*, 478–167 Lombard Ave., Winnipeg, MB, R3B 0T6. Or email your submission to album@thebeaver.ca. Include a brief description of the photo, including its date and location. If possible, identify people in the photograph and provide further information about the event or situation illustrated. To have your posted submission returned, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

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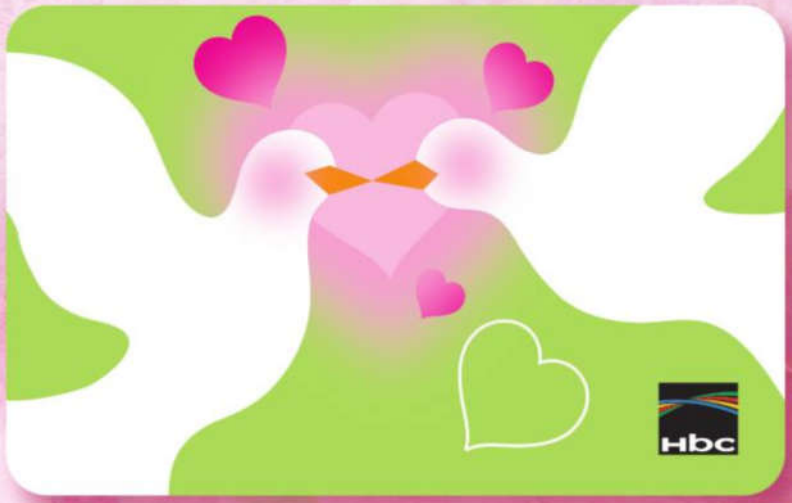

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